Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-93-234
Wednesday
8 December 1993

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FBIS-EEU-93-234 *8 December 1993*

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Yugoslavia, Croatia Start Talks on POW Exchange

LD0612150993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1432 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Geneva, Dec 6 (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia and Croatia started talks on Monday on the exchange of prisoners of war under the aegis of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The talks at the level of deputy prime ministers will focus on the implementation of the Budapest and Geneva agreements between the two sides on the exchange of POWs and search for the persons reported missing.

The two delegations are meeting for the first time since 7 August 1992, when the then Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic and Croatian Prime Minister Mate Granic signed the agreement on the exchange of POWs in Budapest.

For the past 15 months, Croatia has been refusing to honour the obligations stemming from the agreement and the Geneva Convention on the release of POWs and other related issues.

The Yugoslav Government insists that Croatia release from prisons and detention camps 1,000 Serb prisoners, 200 of whom are Yugoslav citizens.

Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Zeljko Simic told TANJUG before the talks he hoped they would have a positive outcome since the Croatian side had showed readiness to implement the two agreements. Simic said the meeting was all the more important because it was an attempt to normalize relations between Belgrade and Zagreb.

The Yugoslav delegation would insist with the ICRC that Croatia was under obligation to honour all provisions of the two documents, including rendering detailed information about the fate of the about 1,000 prisoners and the persons reported missing, explained Simic.

Although some elements of the Budapest agreement are not to Yugoslavia's interest—such as the release of Croatian commandoes to whom the ICRC has granted the status of POWs—the Yugoslav side is willing to honour the agreement in its entirety in recognition of the new political reality, he said.

An 11-member Croatian terrorist group attempted to demolish the bridge spanning the Danube at Bezdan, on the border between Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serb Krajina, the state proclaimed by Serbs within the administrative boundaries of Croatia.

UN Soldiers Allegedly Supply Fuel to Serbs

AU0712153393 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 7 Dec 93 pp 1-2

["Th"-attributed report: "UN Soldiers Supply Fuel to Serbs"]

[Excerpt] Copenhagen, 6 December—Despite the sanctions adopted by the UN Security Council against the Serbs, Nordic UN troops—and other UN units, too—are supplying fuel to Serbian militia in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. During their meeting on Sunday evening [5 December], the foreign and defense ministers of the Nordic states indirectly confirmed reports of such practices in Bosnia, pointing out that similar things have been happening in Croatia for a long time. Danish Defense Minister Haekkerup stated that he investigated such reports as early as six months ago and found that the rules of the UN troop (UNPROFOR) are being observed. The fuel is used to pay for "local services." The minister did not answer questions regarding the limit of such deals and whether weapons and ammunition are also being supplied. Danish Foreign Minister Helveg Petersen stressed that "local currencies" must be used. On Monday, Minister Haekkerup stated that weapons and ammunition are naturally excluded. Only small quantities of fuel are involved. There can be no talk of a violation of the UN sanctions because the rules of UNPROFOR, that is of the United Nations itself, are being observed. [passage omitted]

Berisha Addresses DP Assembly 5 Dec

AU0712130993 Tirana ATA in English 1102 GMT 6 Dec 93

["The Address of President Berisha at the Second Assembly of the Democratic Party of Albania"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, December 6 (ATA) [dateline as received]—This convention is convened today after two months of electoral campaign held by the Democratic Party [DP] in thousands of its sections and large branches. This campaign, which marked a further development for the democracy inside the DP, was characterized by a greater membership of the intellectuals and of thousands and thousands of citizens and peasants in the ranks of the DP and by the further enhancement of its great principles, of its concepts on the human freedoms and rights. Therefore, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate you all, those who recently joined the DP, the elected members in the fora of the party, the organizing commission and particularly the chairman of the DP, Mr. Eduard Selami, for the splendid direction of this campaign, from which the DP comes out even stronger, more organized and more democratic. A little more than two years have gone by since the first convention of the DP. But, though the period is short, the events occurring in it are great, historical and unrepeatable for Albania and the Albanian nation. Never in such a short period of time has our country experienced these great epochal changes. In two years Albania changed its regime, system, institutions, economy and reputation.

All these historical changes were foreseen, designed and applied according to the programme of the DP. Quite rarely has a political party managed to design and direct such profound changes within such a short time like the Democratic Party. Therefore, today this party comes to its second convention with the legitimate pride for the great and salvaging turn that it accomplished for Albania and Albanians. Today our nations and the generations to come will be forever grateful to it.

The First Convention of the DP was called at a time when the red nomenclature with its collaborators were preparing to deal the finishing blows to the Albanian democratic movement. They decided to replace the gallows, the camps and the prisons with the treacherous murders, exodus, burning, destructions and corruption. With this they wanted to cast into oblivion the catastrophe where they have plunged Albania, they aimed at criminalizing an entire people and presenting Albania in front of the world an uncivilized being, warped and unworthy for democracy. Alas, Europe saw in its inhabitants the boat people and the grave situations which were noted on other continents. No doubt, the name Albania and Albanians proved to be a real shock to the civilized Europe and world.

The red pashas, who until yesterday were the masterminds of the camps, the prisons, the bunkers, the isolation and plight of Albania, tried with might and main to link and justify their macabre strategy of the criminalization of the Albanian people, of its humiliation and disfiguration, with the emergence of the new democratic forces. To realize their wicked purposes, they used the stability government, which the DP accepted with the high and the noble motive of avoiding bloodshed, but which, unfortunately, for numerous reasons turned into a real political shield for the old regime and a dangerous instrument in its hands against the opposition and the democratic processes in Albania. The time when the first convention of the DP was convened, was extremely difficult. The students, workers and intellectuals, founders of the DP, were deeply concerned for the lot of the opposition. The old and the new blockmen were holding tightly together. They decided for a close cooperation with the Belgrade circles and mobilized against democracy all their secret and criminal connections. Theirs was a a life and death struggle.

But, despite the deep cloud and confusion during the time of the first convention of the DP, it clearly and decisively defined the path to be followed by this party towards victory. This convention, as you know, decided for the continuation of the civil, political action, for the creation of the alliance and links with the other opposition forces, defined the objectives, which the historic meeting of the National Council of November 26, formulated and presented as indispensable prerequisites for the further development of democracy.

But, due to the failure to fulfill them, on December 4, 1991, the DP took the historic decision to withdraw from the stability government and become a clear opposition against the red dictatorship, just as it was created by the students, intellectuals and workers of Tirana in December 1990. In its second December, the workers, the students, the ex-persecuted, and the intellectuals of Tirana, Shkodra, Kavaja, Korca, Durresi, Elbasan, took to the streets of their cities, supported the DP and dealt fatal blows to the communist dictatorship condemning it into its everlasting winter. May all the Albanian students, workers, persecuted people and intellectuals, who wrecked the Ramizian snares and redeemed the Albanian opposition, be forever honoured.

But, though suffering the last months of its agony, this old regime doggedly pursued its monstrous work. The country was plagued by anarchy and chaos, work was interrupted, telephone lines were destroyed, economy and production were paralyzed, land remain barren (according to statistics only 21 percent was cultivated), thousands of schools and aqueducts were ruined. The dictatorship of hunger, anarchy, violence and shootings overran the country.

In this tragic situation the DP drafted and unfolded its electoral programme, that of a centre right party, which was to rely on two pillars—the eradication of communism from Albania and the victory of democracy—the establishment of the rule of law and the social market economy and the integration of Albania into Europe. The objectives were highly ambitious, the difficulties to

overcome for their achievement extraordinary, but they were decisive for the fate of Albania and the Albanian nation.

As a serious political force the DP in its electoral campaign did not run after several empty promises, but promised only the quick solution of the immediate problems: the restoration of law and order, the beginning of the great reforms, the opening of the country, the construction of a free Albania with fundamental human dimension. In the elections of March 22, the DP scored an overwhelming historic victory. On March 22, the Albanian electorate voted for its programe, because it stood up against the sufferings, tortures, murders and massacres committed in Albania by the communist regime for half a century, disfiguration and atheism, isolation and fraud, collectivism and expropriation, practices against the Albanians and Albania. They voted overwhelmingly like no other people in the east for a free Albania, integrated in Europe. Such victory, which I would call one of the Albanian wonders during their history, was achieved by the DP in coalition with the RP, SDp, the independent trade unions in Albania, the former political prisoners association.

May these our allies, who together with us defeated communism and put the country in the path of freedom, be forever honoured.

The victory of the DP resulted:

Firstly, from its excellent program as a centre right party, presented to the Albanian electorate with the clear explanations and intepretations.

Secondly, its transparent correction of the mistakes in the first electoral campaign and the creation of the coalition with the other opposition forces.

Thirdly, the Albanian people voted massively for the DP, because from the very beginning, like no other party, it had gathered around itself the most active and democratic forces of all the strata of the Albanian population.

Fourthly, the overwhelming victory of the DP in Albania was also the result of the fact that in distinction to the other political forces in Europe, it came to the elections of March 22, as a genuine opposition.

But the great victory of the DP in the elections of March 22, would have never assumed those dimensions without the invaluable moral, technical and material help of the EDU [European Democratic Union], of the centre right parties and their personalities and leaders in Europe, as well as the special and allround assistance of the two American institutions, the Republican and the Democratic ones.

Therefore, on your behalf and on behalf of the DP, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his party, to our distinguished guest Jeffrey Pattie, to Mr. Alois Mock and his party, to Mr. Jacques Chirac and his party, to President Demirel and his party, to President Rugova and the Democratic League of Kosova, to Mr. Theo Waigel and his party, to Konstatin Mitsotakis and his party, to Mr. Martinazzoli and his party. On this occasion allow me also to express my deep gratitude to President Bush and Secretary Baker, to former Presidents Carter and Reagan, to the U.S. Administration and institutions, to Mr. Jack Buechner and the officials of the Republican institution, to Mr. Brian Atwood and the officials of the National Democratic institution and to many others for the extraordinary moral, technical and material assistance that they provided to the DP from its foundation to the victory. All these and many others became a strong support for the Albanian democratic opposition. They are part of our victory, they will have our everlasting gratitude.

On March 22, Albanians scored an historic victory over the dictatorship and communism. However, it was a victory over fifty lost years, a victory over a true devastation, over an ill- famed reputation of chaos and anarchy. Under such stances the DP and the power emerging from the elections of March 22 undertook to launch Albania on its course towards Europe.

No doubt governing is not easy, moreover when one lacks experience and when one does not come from chancelleries and politics, however it is one hundred times harder when one has lost 50 years, when one starts from chaos and anarchy, when the people deceived by the fifty-year-old red propaganda have lost patience and expect much from you and now, awake in the dawn of democracy, they find themselves to be the poorest in Europe and their own country burdened with the past of a barbaric regime. Nevertheless, the government that emerged from elections committed itself instantly with unprecedented devotion, boldness and courage, with honesty and sincerity to an overall, profound, political, legislative, institutional and economic reform according to the DP program aiming at the establishment of the rule of law, the social market economy and pulling Albania out of the deep isolation and its integration into Europe and the international community.

The reforms in the political plane:

Establishment of a new administration devoid of apparatchiks and old nomenclature, composed of new intellectuals and employees was one of the most pressing tasks to be resolved after March 22 elections. Likewise while bearing in mind the major significance of the local power the first free local elections in the history of Albania were called in July 1992. Although due to the insufficient committment to the process of reforms and some other factors, we did not have the results we expected, still they were no doubt a very important and vital act in the development of democracy in Albania.

For the first time in their history, Albanians have already a central and local power elected through free ballot.

Legislative and institutional reforms:

A primary task in the legislative plane for the state power which emerged from the elections of March 22 was the substitution as soon as possible of the old laws of the dictatorship with the rule of law. Having the majority in the parliament, naturally the DP had to bear the main responsibility. In a short period of 18 months the Albanian Parliament passed hundreds of new laws on which the market economy and the new institutions rely. However the charter of human rights and freedoms will remain a milestone in the history of the law in Albania. Formerly the country of the most savage dictatorship, of atheism and the impassable borders has today one of the most humane and advanced charters of human rights and freedoms in Europe. A valuable contribution to the profound legislative reforms was given by the Council of Europe, the Venice Commission, the American Bar Association, the Adenauer and Friedrich Ebert institutions as well as several individuals and institutions. They have and will always have our gratitude.

In my opinion the freedom and human rights are the most brilliant reality of present Albania. In the country where the words pluralism and human rights were a heresy until 1990, at present dozens and some hundreds of parliamentary and non-parliamentary parties and non-state associations are represented in the parliament. In addition private reviews and newspapers are printed which as for the number per capita of the population record the highest figures in Europe. There is no censorship on the press and nobody is persecuted because of his ideas.

At present in Albania, the country of imposed Marxist-Leninist atheism, three principal religions and small comunities develop and coexist in harmony and peace. What honours Albania today is the religious tolerance, par excellence.

Albania has now adopted the most liberal system for the movement of the people, the free initiative is gradually becoming dominant in the Albanian economy. We may say that in no other country have freedom and human rights known such an impetuous development in a short time. The freedoms and the rights of the Greek minority in Albania have further developed and extended. Present Albania is the example of the harmonization of the two principal directions in the region which are vital to the freedom and rights of each minority.

First, the direction of the development and strengthening of the ethnic identity: Article 26 of the Albanian Charter for the Human Rights and Freedoms guarantees all rights and freedoms to the people of the minority recognized by the Copenhagen Charter. So the Greek minority has today its own party, deputies, counselors, mayors elected by free elections. It also has newspapers, magazines in its mother tongue, the pupils of the minority learn in 84 schools including all the circles starting from the first class to the university, even some classes only with 3-4 pupils. The proportion between mother tongue and the Albanian language is approximately 3 to 1 in favour of the mother tongue. They practice freely their religion in their mother tongue. But in Albania, for the minority the direction of its integration into the majority is well developed. Thus today four deputies, professors, judges and others belonging to the minority were presented as candidates of the DP and other parties.

With all these I would like to guarantee the minority people that their freedoms and rights will keep growing together with the freedom and rights of other Albanians.

Ladies and gentlemen,

A deep reform has been accomplished in the institutional field as well. The rule of law of a true democratic society could not be established with the institutions of the dictatorship, therefore all the existing institutions were radically transformed and among the numerous new institutions that were established instead I think that the independent judiciary system and the constitutional tribunal are of first rate importance to the development of democracy in Albania. The army, the national intelligence service, and the police were completely reformed and reorganized on this occasion, therefore in my function outside the party, on behalf of Albania, I would like to congratulate all the effective units of the Armed Forces of Albania and their families for their courage and wisdom in carrying out the reforms and in coping with the pain caused by it and created the new military institutions, increased the defence potential of the country, restored order, tranquillity and security in Albania. The institutional reform in Albania not only offered the possibility to dozens of thousands of Albanian intellectuals, who were ignored and left into oblivion by the dictatorship, to make their contribution to the development of these institutions. In addition it also served as a powerful base of the universal promotion, for the consolidation of the state of the rights and the exploitation of the creative energies of the intellectual in all the fields as well.

Although these institutions go through serious difficulties at present, it is an undeniable fact that they more than ever are being consolidated as institutions of a free society and free country.

Economic reforms

One year and a half ago, the Albanian economy languished not simply in a state of collapse but of a real coma. It was a centralized and paralyzed economy. The law of 80 percent (workers received 80 percent of salary without working) had completely paralyzed production and inflation was increasing by 20 percent monthly. The former governments had no reserves in stores, the shops were completely empty, a ration system was established in providing people with food, and there were long and endless lines. Under such circumstances the only alternative for us was to launch the reform and to accept the shock therapy as extreme means for the economic recovery.

I think that it was a right decision. There was no other alternative. The economic reform was based on the liberalization of prices, the control of inflation, the privatization of the economy and attraction of foreign investors. The beginning was very difficult and the pain it caused was great.

In my opinion two factors have been determinant in the success of the reform: The great courage of the Albanians that emerges from their capacity to kindle hope and the great generous aid of the European Community, its principal contributors such as Germany and France, its member countries in first rank Italy, Germany, Greece, Great Britain, and the generous aid of the U.S., Turkey, Austria, Kuwait and many other countries of Europe and the Arab world, as well. The economic reform in Albania certainly passed through great difficulties, but today it is an undeniable success. Many friends of ours speak of the Albanian miracle. But this is not the case. Albania is still the poorest country in Europe and will remain as such for a given time. What these friends call the Albanian miracle is the fact that the economic reform saved Albania from falling down into the abyss of history, where it was going before March 22.

Today, after 18 months, its results are impressive. Thus inflation is under complete control with a monthly rate about 1.5 percent, our currency is convertible and is kept stable through a fluctuating exchange rate, prices were liberalized, the basket of staple food was abolished, commerce and transport were substantially vitalized, privatization and free initiative underwent rapid development, privatization of apartments is under way. In this way, over 150,000 workers have been employed in the private sector and in joint ventures in Tirana alone, there are 14,000 private units and 60 percent of the families have one member employed in the private sector.

The private sector prevails in transport and trade. Today, Shkodra alone has more cars than the whole country had in 1990. Another major achievement of the reform is the growth of the overall production at the rate of 8 percent as compared to Europe. Major transformations have taken place in the Albanian countryside. We have carried through the land distribution, the farmers are cultivating it with great satisfaction. According to figures provided by USID in 1993, production of wheat increased, as against 1992, from 270,000 tons to 465,000 tons. Livestock production increased 30 perceent. The income per capita in several districts of the country has grown many fold. According to reliable statistical figures, figures per capita in the Tirana villages vary between 1400 to 1600 [currency units not specified].

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, Albanian cultural life experiences a true revival. The time we are living in and the great challenges facing us require us to find te ways and mechanism for the acceleration of Albania's development and compensation for the lost time. Our present and future depends on the solution of this vital problem for Albania. This solution requires above all that the intellectual play the role that belongs to him and have the treatment he deserves. I have been and still am a witness and an admirer of the saga of efforts, sacrifices, extraordinary insistence of the formation of the Albanian intellectual and I'd like to stress here that in the poor Albania they are her pride. Their minds, ideas and capacities are her greatest asset. Therefore I call upon the intellectuals that, in the same way they demolished dictatorship, let us work together with devotion in the free Albania, to build the rule of law and the market economy, to realize our ideas and of our renaissance figures, to show that we are worthy inheritors and capable creators to develop them further.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The above-mentioned indices are truly encouraging. They bear testimony to a good start of the reform in Albania, but it would be absurd and fraught with bad consequences, if we became self-conceited with their euphoria and failed to see the major weaknesses and problems lying ahead. The most important among them are: Acceleration of the medium and large scale enterprises through the voucher system. Only a speedy privatization and proprietorship of our people could give a true impetus to the country's economic development. According to my view, delays in the utilization of vouchers and their marketing are unjustifiable. At present another major question facing the government remains a greater economic, political and social support and assistance to the former political prisoners and persecuted people. This support based on given schemes and conventions should aim at the quickest possible normalization of their life, therefore their employment compensation, education and accommodation should be one of the top priorities of the government and the entire country. Prolongation of their suffering is a new wound in our consequence. [sentence as received]

An urgent problem is the water supply for the population. To this end the government should draft an emergency plan. The delays on the part of the Ministry of Construction are unjustifiable and intolerable. The next year should mark the higher concentration of investments in the supply with drinking water and electricity.

Likewise, priority should be given to the problem of employment, hence the support for the sectors which create jobs, for instance foodstuff industry, which until now has been and continues to be neglected unjustifiably by the Ministry of Agriculture. The government should study separately all the sectors and make active again those which have guaranteed market and export.

Other major problems requiring speedy solution, the greater investments in human capacities, i.e. in the employee and worker, the attraction of foreign investments, the simplification of procedures, the completion of legislation, the signing of agreements for ensuring investments with other countries. In addition, the more

rational exploitation of welfare funds and the economic support assume special importance. At present the welfare system numbers still tens of thousands of workers, who have another job in or outside the country, making a salary higher than any salary in the Albanian administration. Today the state economic assistance for the mountainous regions is twice as high as what those regions receive from their agricultural cooperatives. This is a real support, which this state provides for them in distinction to the former state which used to shed crocodile tears for them. But it is in the interests of these areas that these billions of leks be given in exchange of the useful work done by everybody for himself and for his family by planting vineyards and forests, for the commune and the district by maintaining streets, schools, graveyards or villages.

Such administration of these funds will help the struggle against poverty in those areas and do away with parasitism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The opening and the integration of Albania into Europe and the international community has been one of the major priorities of the Government of Albania. With the policy of isolation, ignoring and violation human rights, the Albanian communist regime succeeded in keeping the attention of the international community far away from Albania and to cast our country and nation into oblivion or even worse than that. Through acts of disfiguration, violence, terror, prisons and concentration camps, bunkers and destruction of churches and mosques, it severely ruined the reputation of Albania and the Albanians. No matter how bitter it seems to us, the truth of the matter is that for all believers in God and the civilized people, who saw churches and mosques being burned down, the priests and [word indistinct] persecuted by Hoxha-Ramizian inquisition or innocent young people dragged along the streets of our cities, Albania was transformed into a symbol of human hell in Europe.

Thus, it was crucial for the fate of Albania that it open towards Europe, demonstrate the real values of its culture and civilization, prove that the bunkers, prisons, concentration camps and the atheism were a monstruous imposition to a virtuous brave generous loyal people whose greatest dream was the integration of their country into the civilized Europe.

Therefore the aims or the objectives of our foreign policy were defined as follows: 1. The opening of Albania and its integration into Europe. 2. Securing the necessary support for the development of the domestic reforms in Albania. And 3. Settlement of the national question. These objectives certainly are difficult ones and it is absurd to think that they could be achieved within a short period of time. In our whole foreign policy we have had and will have as a fundamental principle that of reciprocity. Actually proceeding from this principle we have responded and will respond with friendship and respect to each nation and country, large or small, far or near, rich or poor, strong or weak, which likes to have friendship with us and which shares the same principles and values. But we, as an ancient, knowing how to honour and respect the friend, know also to give its due to whoever tries to tread upon the dignity and the sovereignty of our country or use at the expense of Albania the grave consequences and wounds of the communist regime which we are healing. The millinery [as received] history of Albania is that of the resistance of a nation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Analysing the realization of the three goals of our foreign policy, I think that achievements are significant and undeniable. During this period Albania emerged once and for all from the profound isolation and is fighting to overcome its grave consequences. Within such a short time Pope John Paul the Second has visited Albania. Significant achievements have been scored also in the rapprochement and cooperation of Albania with the European and international institutions like the European Union, NATO, the Council of Europe, the NACC, the EFTA countries and the Islamic Conference. Albania does not consider the process of its integration to the European Union, NATO and the Western European Union as an immediate or urgent process, but as a vital act which will go through an increasing cooperation and will help Albania to become member of these institutions and tone down a certain hesitation on the part of these organizations which unfortunately originates from the Cold War and which are slowing down the process of the integration of eastern countries into these structures. We are encouraged by the American initiative "Partnership for Peace," but we would like it to have more elements of cooperation and provide further guarantees to the nations and countries which love peace and are working with devotion to achieve it.

In the process of cooperation with the Council of Europe and its member countries, Albania has succeeded in meeting all goals to become full member of the council after completing all necessary procedures with it.

Certain cooperation with the European Union is the first priority for Albania. The agreement signed by the Albanian Government as well as the good cooperation existing between Albania and the Council of Europe make us optimistic of signing an associate agreement with the European Council in the near future.

The relations of Albania with the USA, the only superpower and the most democratic country in the world are friendly and are constantly advancing in all areas. The military agreement signed recently is an important step in the friendly cooperation between the two countries.

In the foundations of Albania's relations with the USA lie the major role of President Wilson at the Paris Peace Conference after WWI, in preventing a further partitioning of Albanian territories. Also commendable is U.S. generosity towards hundreds upon thousands of

Albanians who [word indistinct] and work there and are today honoured citizens of that great country.

In the foundations of these relations also stand the great political, economic and technical support which the American Government and people have given to the democratic forces and development of democracy in Albania. The high-level visits and meetings have served the further development of these relations and friendly understanding. As Europeans we think that the presence of the United States is indispensable to peace and stability on the continent and this not at all more for Albanians than for the other peoples. History should not be forgotten.

Our friendly relations with Germany have been constantly developing and consolidating. Historically the German scientists have made a great contribution to the study of ethnogenesis of the Albanian nation. Through Prince Wied Germany helped Albanians in organizing the newly created Albanian state. Furthermore, following the relations with Albania, the German officials did their utmost to help Albania open up and strongly supported the Albanian opposition. The German Government with the visit of Mr. Genscher was the first in Europe to hail the victory of the opposition party in the elections of March 22. The visit to Albania and the bilateral summits serve the strengthening and development of friendly relations and close cooperation with Germany. The Albanian issue is considered proceeding from a broad context in friendly Germany which in the framework of bilateral cooperation, provided Albania with great economic, political and technical assistance for which we are very grateful

The relations of Albania with Great Britain are developing and advancing at rapid rates. Britain is a friendly country which helped Albania during the WWII and which right after the establishment of democracy, restored diplomatic relations with it.

The visits of British senior officials in Albania and of the Albanian officials to Britain, and the meetings between them in different countries, the signing of military agreements with Britain, the humanitarian and technical assistance of Britain for Albania, are evidence of fruitful development of relations between Albania and Great Britain.

I am optimistic of Albania's relations with France despite a drawback in the relations with it. The Albanian Government will work to expand them in the future. We would commit a grave mistake were we to base our relations with this big country on prejudices or its old historic relations with Serbia. Through the European Union, France is assisting Albania and not Serbia. Likewise France has given Albania bilateral assistance. Naturally there might be pro-Serb circles in france but there are also distinguished friends of Albania there. The government of Mr. Balladur has voiced its sincere readiness to cooperate with Albania. The recent visit of the French minister of state has given a new impulse to cooperation between Albania and France.

Albania's friendly relations with Spain, Holland, Sweden and other Nordic countries, with Japan, Argentina, the Eastern European countries, with Malaysia, Pakistan, Israel (I must stress that the visit of Mr. Peres was a great contribution to the friendly bilateral relations between Albania and Israel), are developing and advancing steadily. We devote special attention to our relations with Russia and China.

Dialogue and cooperation with these big countries is significant and I believe it will contribute to the development of the relations of Albania with these states. The visit of the Chinese foreign minister to Albania opened a new page in the friendly relations between Albania and China.

Albanians are bound with friendly Arab countries by historical, political, economic and cultural relations. The close and friendly cooperation with Arab countries like Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Emirates and other countries of the Gulf as well as with all the Moslem countries which do not support fundamentalism are another significant goal of our foreign policy.

Regional and Balkan cooperation has always been of first priority in the foreign policy of Albania. In this respect we can say that Albania has developed friendly relations with Italy and they have recorded an intensive development. Friendly Italy has given Albania and the Albanian people the greatest bilateral political and economic assistance at crucial moments. The numerous agreements we have reached, the exchange of visits between senior officials of Albania and Italy have created the proper climate for the reciprocal development of friendly relations. Two days ago we saw off the operation "Pelican." I would like to extend our most sincere thanks to the Italian Government and people for the generous aid and the noble mission carried out by the operation "Pelican" in Albania.

Our relations with Turkey too are very good and friendly. Cooperation with friendly Turkey is based on the strong historical and blood links which exist between our two countries. We share common views about all the developments in the region. The numerous agreements, the visits of senior government officials, the great assistance of Turkey to Albania during this period, are a powerful support for the fruitful and friendly development of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Albania's traditional relations with Austria and Switzerland have always been friendly. We are grateful to them for the generous assistance they have given to Albania and their objective approach to the developments in the Balkans and the Albanian nationality issue.

I hope that our relations with Greece are at the stage of overcoming the problems we experienced last summer. Mr. Papoulias' visit to Albania was an evidence to the

mutual will to open up a new chapter in the relations between Albania and Greece. Greece is one of those countries which has provided great assistance to Albania and for this we will always be grateful to the Greek Government and people. Important progress has been recorded in the cooperation of Albania with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. As until now we will try to further develop the relations with Macedonia persisting on the observation of the legitimate demands of the Albanians living there.

Albania has developed friendly relations and cooperation with Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia and Romania which have steadily expanded. Likewise we share similar views in regard to regional developments and in this respect a better coordination of attitudes would be important to us.

In all this wide and intensive activity carried out during these 650 days with a foreign policy which aims at peace and stability in the Balkans and with its great determination to the pursuit of the reforms, the Albanian Government during this period secured an all-round assistance and support for the progress of the reforms by the European Union and the international financial institutions like IMF, the World Bank as well as other friendly and neighbouring countries. This has been very important to the success of the economic reforms in Albania.

Another fundamental objective of our foreign policy is the right settlement of the national question. The Albanian question is certainly one of the burning problems. Without its right settlement the Balkan crisis cannot be resolved. In this respect I think we must take into consideration that the situation of the Albanians at the end of this century is a consequence of the intertwining of several internal and external factors, which have influenced them and their homeland, from the last quarter of the bygone century until now.

But today for the first time in the history of the Albanian nation there exists a national policy for the settlement of this issue. It became possible to defend this policy only after the establishment of democracy in Albania because only an Albania which has established the rule of law and the market economy can defend with dignity the freedoms and rights of the Albanians wherever they are. Allow me to remind the nostalgics of the dictatorship and its newspapermen that the monster that managed to live only by creating other monsters, raising c ilts and singing hymns to Stalin and offending Albania, could neither defend the rights and freedoms of the oppressed Albanians in former Yugoslavia nor could it raise the problem of the chams in Greece. Through the policy followed towards Albanians in Albania the monster justified and made credible all the fraudulent theses of the chauvinist Serbs against the Albanians in Kosova and former Yugoslavia. That monster together with those who designed and applied the policy of unconditional submission towards some certain people and that of curse towards the rest of the entire world sacrificed hundreds of thousands of Albanians through the dirty game of the Yugoslav and Albanian secret police, which he had started since 1941 with Dushan and Miladin, who gave him positions of leadership.

The shaping of a national policy of the Albanian state was rendered possible by the fact that for the first time in the history of the martyred people of Kosova non-communist political parties were formed in this region, elections and referendums took place through which emerged the democratic institutions which decently represent the people of Kosova and have won a great sympathy and a large support in the democratic government circles and organizations of Europe, the USA and the whole world. There have been positive political developments also with the Albanians in Macedonia and Montenegro, and those in Serbian territories as well.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thanks to this correct national policy, during the last 18 years, the question of the Albanians in Kosova has been one of the most important issues of the CSCE, UN Security Council, NATO, U.S. State Department, and European chancelleries.

Albania and the Albanian forces, wherever they are, are not asking for forceful change of borders, but ask for the guarantee of the national and human rights and freedoms of the Albanians wherever they live.

In this difficult period fraught with conflicts our peninsula is going through, the idea of changing borders by force would mean a separation of Albania and Albanians from the international community, their isolation and undoubtedly flaring the fire of the war in the Balkans, which would bring about only ruins.

The Albanian democratic forces in Albania, Kosova and Macedonia have rejected this option as a tragic and desperate one. They do not follow this option because Albania is a serious state, which adheres to the signed agreements, because the Albanians are a serious nation, and like the oldest nation in the Balkans, are deeply aware of their paramount sentiment for peace, security and stability of the peninsula. They have chosen instead the endeavour for the creation of a democratic space where they live in and can preserve and develop their freedoms and national and individual rights. The Albanians' fight and efforts for a democratic space has and will have a vast support. It should be a priority and intensive work is required for its realisation. In a democratic space, the seven million Albanians, who represent a geographical and ethnic continuity, will feel themselves almost united, whereas the wounds of a Balkan conflict would not be healed by whole generations over scores of years.

Hence, the Albanians' self-control, the policy based on democratic means and methods pursued by the political forces in Kosova, the constructive role of the Albanians

of Macedonia and the major endeavour of Albania to prevent the conflict from spilling over in the south of the Balkans.

However, on this occasion, I'd like to stress that no one has the right to speculate about the Albanians' self-control. Some hostile circles consider this self-control as incapacity, hesitation or even as fear, and indeed, it seems as if this very self-control has accounted for encouraging criminal and war mongering plans for further partitioning Kosova and the other Albanian territories. On this occasion, I'd like to point out once again the clear-cut stand of Albania, namely that in no circumstances will it accept impositions or further partitioning of the Albanian soil and that the Albanians will oppose such amoral plans by all means, and that war will spread all over the region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At present our peninsula is undergoing a deep and dangerous crisis. The Serb aggressive policy for creating a Greater Serbia presents a major threat to the Balkans and Europe. In keeping with its criminal plans of creating a Greater Serbia, Belgrade opened the front in the north, in Bosnia, considering it a matter of weeks, aware that through manipulations it would succeed in destabilizing Macedonia. It is a fact that it was the first warning by President George Bush, which was later repeated by President Clinton and NATO, that prevented the conflict's extension to Kosova and an outbreak of the fourth Balkan war.

Greater Serbia aims at making an ethnic cleansing of millions of Albanians for their own territories, in conformity with the memorandum of the Academy of Sciences of Serbia, and Milosevic will not stop half-way. His strong relations with crime, the overt or covert support he still enjoys by given circles, account for his persistent pursuit of the policy of aggression. Recently, either in order to obey to someone's orders or to show off before elections in Serbia, this aggressor accuses the European Union of the last genocide in the end of the century. Why does he do this? He goes so far as to become offensive because unfortunately he has realised that the Bosnian crisis has exerted a greater influence on Europe than Europe on Bosnia, and this not because the international community has really encountered a super aggressor in Bosnia, but because today, unfortunately, like at the beginning of this century, interests, ideas, and segments of politicians belonging to the 1871- 1939 period are projected there. Partitioning of the former Yugoslavia was accompanied with the revival of all memories and attitudes related to the old narrow nationalistic interests. Unfortunately, their defence resulted in confrontations rather than cooperation in Europe. The developments in Bosnia have also had their effect on several stands towards Albania. Tomorrow's scholars will be surprised and laugh when, taking a look at the press of some European country, though not official, they will find not few praises for the former dictatorship and heaps of anathemas against the present-day democracy in Albania.

Still there are others who, after filling their pockets with the gold of these people, have set up committees to protect the Albanian blockmen and incriminate Albania.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Bosnia is a macabre testimony to deaths, disappearances, rapes and ethnic cleansing of hundreds and millions of people. Bosnia is the greatest tragedy in Europe since the end of the Second World War and the first victim after the fall of the Iron Curtain. It marked the end of the principles of peace and security, the funeral and the precedent of a state's abolition, that is, the remuneration of an aggressor. Therefore, more than ever before, today, we should use all our potential first to prevent aggression and make all efforts to cope with it in case it breaks out. In this respect, it is necessary to enhance our cooperation with all those countries and institutions which may influence and are interested in it.

In this way, we should pursue a more active policy in regard to the European Union, the Security Council, NATO and especially the governments of the Security Council permanent member countries and other countries, and, as close witnesses directly threatened by the Balkan crisis, we should expound our views about the ongoing developments and prove the major danger which Greater Serbia poses to the Balkans and Europe as well as our possible options in regard to the settlement of the Balkan crisis.

Settlement of this grave crisis requires above all abiding by two principles of the Helsinki charter: Respect for the existing borders and guarantee of human and national rights of the peoples who live in this region. For this purpose we deem it necessary:

First, the non-recognition by the international community of the fait accompli in Bosnia and the imposition of the joint-action plan for Bosnia as well as the other resolutions of the Security Council.

Second, the demilitarization of Bosnia and the return of the refugees to their homes as well as the guarantee of the borders of this state by all its neighbours.

Third, the maintenance and consolidation of the all-round embargo against Serbia as an aggressor for as long a time as it accepts a political solution for Kosova and fully respects the human and national rights and freedoms of the Albanians of Kosova.

Fourth, the guarantee of the borders of Macedonia. In this respect, deployment of troops from America and the Nordic countries has been a significant factor ensuring peace and stability in this republic. Worth mentioning and appraising is, according to our opinion, also the Franco-German decision to recognize Macedonia. However, we should stress that all the efforts for the easing of the embargo on Serbia presuppose the strengthening of

the military machine and a direct encouragement to Belgrade in order to extend the conflict to the south.

Ladies and gentlemen,

For Albania and the Albanians today the utmost priority has been and will remain the prevention of the conflict. But, on the other hand, we have to make it clear to our friends, the European Union and its member countries, the USA, NATO and the members of this alliance, to the Arab countries, that in case of a conflict in Kosova or other territories inhabited by the Albanians, the Albanian nation will react and resist with all their means. The consequences of a Balkan war will be catastrophic. Hence, we insist that the European Union and its member countries, the United States, increase their cooperation with Albania, assist her in her efforts for peace, stability and democracy in the region and for a just settlement of the Albanian question. The assistance to Albania and the Albanians discourages the aggression and supports their stabilizing role in the Balkans. We are deeply convinced that, despite the way the old options and interests are projected in the Balkans, our just and principled stand in the interest not only of the Albanians but also of all the other peoples, countries, governments and institutions, which are concerned in peace, stability, good understanding and cooperation in the Balkan peninsula. Therefore we must be always more active and more intensive in defending and explaining without any prejudices our viewpoints in Washington, Paris, Bonn, London, Moscow, New York, Beijing, Geneva and elsewhere.

Particularly active we should be in our dialogue with those individuals, circles and governments, which might cherish the illusion that Greater Serbia could play a stabilizing role in the Balkans.

In our efforts to prevent the conflict, to preserve peace and stability in the region, importance should be devoted to cooperation and dialogue with the neighbours. We think that the Balkans and regional dialogue and cooperation is and should be an essential factor for the stability in our region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Until now we've come to the end of a stage of great difficulties and achievements and the current of the democratic present and future is ours. Today we are free, but it is ours only on one condition: that we show ourselves worthy of our culture, of our legacy, and of the freedoms we've won. The history of the rule of law and democracy in Albania has shown a good start. But the current of democracy is like the current in the ocean: regular and steady. In human matters nothing is mechanical or inevitable. Therefore, we all, though being free today, should ask the question whether we have achieved the freedom we want. The answer is certainly not. The sacred teachings say that freedom is a lesson which is never learned and never forgotten, and on the other hand, it is still too far to permit to the energies of man to determine its own destiny.

And it's precisely this that forms the basis of all the individual and national struggles for freedom. To conclude, the extension of freedom and its boundaries must be the basic objective of the DP. Freedom and only freedom will save the development of Albania, will forever elevate our country. Only freedom will give the small nations a big name. Only freedom can make the dreams in our children's shining eyes come true.

God bless those who respect each other's freedom!

Turkey's Cetin Signs Accord; Concludes Visit

TA0712124993 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1000 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Tirana, Dec 7 (AA)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin currently in Albania for official talks, on Monday concluded his visit with the signature of a bilateral cooperation agreement.

The agreement was signed following his meetings with Albanian President Dr. Sali Berisha and Prime Minister Aleksander Gabriel Meksi.

Speaking at a joint press conference with his counterpart Alfred Serreqi, following the ceremony, he said the agreement foresees development of bilateral relations, economic, political, and military cooperation as well as in the fields of trading, tourism, the private sector, and defense. [passage omitted]

'Intensification' of Relations

AU0812080693 Tirana ATA in English 0939 GMT 7 Dec 93

["Press Conference of the Foreign Ministers Serreqi and Cetin"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, December 7 (ATA)—The foreign ministers of Albania and Turkey, Serreqi and Cetin, confirmed at a press conference on December 6 the further intensification of Albanian-Turkish bilateral relations in all the fields. "Albania has made steps forward and Turkey appreciates this," Turkish foreign minister said. He described the talks between the two sides as useful and efficient.

The two ministers confirmed before reporters that besides the support for Albania in all international organizations, Turkey will create possibilities for further investment in the fields of construction, telecommunication mentioning in this case the credit of 15 million dollars which Turkey will soon give to Albania along with humanitarian aid.

Regarding the tense situation in the Balkans, the Turkish minister said that "Turkey and Albania attach great importance to peace and stability in the region, they also consider the threat of a possible spillover of the conflict in the southern Balkans, which would be considerable consequences not only for Albania but for the whole region. We have warned about this all international

organizations, he said, adding that in case a correct act is not adopted with regard to Bosnia, Serbian aggression will be encouraged."

Speaking about the reorganization and expansion of international organizations according to new conditions, Mr. Cetin said that "Turkey will support Albania to become member of these organizations." With regard to the question of Kosova, the Turkish minister said that "It is on the agenda and a question of special importance for Turkey."

Questioned by a Turkish reporter about the cooperation in the military fields between Albania and Turkey, Mr. Serreqi said that "Albanian factor is the most threatened in the context of the crisis in the region, therefore Albania has to expand those special historical relations in order to have near itself genuine allies." In reply to a question about Turkish-Greek relations, Mr. Cetin said that "Turkey tries to avoid acts which aggravate these relations. We are for a solution through dialogue, the opposite is useless both for the region and for our two countries."

Views Visit as 'Productive'

AU0812074293 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Reporter on an interview with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin by unidentified correspondent; place not given—recorded; Cetin and correspondent speak in English with superimposed Albanian translation]

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has ends his official and friendly visit in Albania. Before departure, he gave this interview for the television.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr. Cetin, would you like to give a message for the Albanian people after the end of this very friendly visit in Albania?

[Cetin] I can say that my visit in Albania was very productive and I am very pleased to be here. I felt the great care and hospitality of the Albanian Government and people. We had the possibility to talk about everything, of course about the crisis in the region as well. My visit was made at a time when Albania is passing through a time of transition.

And I am very pleased to be here. I think this visit will also add new momentum to our relations. I am very astonished by the results that the democratic government has attained. I am talking about the successes of the economic, democratic reform, etc. I would like to say that Turkey and the Turkish people will make efforts to further help the Albanian people as a friend and brother. I am very happy to be here and I address my best greetings to the Albanian people, because for Turkey and the Turkish people, the relations with Albania and the Albanian people are considered more than friendly. I consider myself to be in a kind of second home here. I hope that I will come to Albania again and wish other successes to the Albanian people.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

At Rinas airport the Turkish friend was seen off by Albanian Foreign Minister Alfred Serreqi and other Foreign Ministry functionaries. The ambassadors of Turkey and Albania, Metin Ornekkol and Skender Shkupi, were also present.

Cabinet Examines Bills on Agreements, Budget

AU0712193893 Tirana ATA in English 0916 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 7 (ATA)—In its meeting of December 6, the Council of Ministers examined the draft laws for the ratification of the agreements between Albania and the United Kingdom and North Ireland in the field of defence, that of Albania and Poland in income and capital taxation, the agreement between Albania and Slovenia on mutual defence, and encouragement of investment. The meeting took decisions for the approval in principle of the agreements between:—Albania-Malaysia on trade and encouragement and protection of investment;—Albania-Slovenia for cooperation in the fields of education, culture and science;—Albania-Switzerland for cooperation in the field of professional technical education and encouragement of small industrial business in the district of Durres.

In the context of some changes in the budget plan of 1993, the Council of Ministers decided that an addition of 400 million leks be given to the Institute of Social Assistance to compensate pensions of the formerly politically persecuted.

Further on, the Council of Ministers examined:

—The draft law on taxation on personal income, which aims at the most correct distribution of the taxation burden, simplification of taxation structures according to economic changes and their reflection in legislation and the exact defining of the persons to be subject to taxes.

—The draft law on the industrial ownership, which sanctions a legal defence of the intellectual ownership in the industrial field, after it had approved the statute of the Academy of Sciences.

The Council of Ministers took a decision also for the restructuring of the department of post-telecommunications and creation of the institute of transport and post-telecommunications.

According to a proposal of the Ministry of Defence and that of Public Order, on the basis of the respective documents and on the activity of the structures of the armed forces, the Council of Ministers took a decision to celebrate the creation of the arms and services of the armed forces according to the proposed dates.

Kozloduy Nuclear Plant Sixth Reactor Restarted

AU0712174493 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Today at 1750 the Sixth Reactor of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant was restarted and connected to the country's power supply system. This happened after completing the continuous three-day repair of a defected system. At present the reactor is functioning at 50 percent of its 1,000 megawatt capacity.

Petkov Claims 'Nearly 20,000 Miners on Strike'

AU0712172193 Sofia BTA in English 1440 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 7 (BTA)—Nearly 20,000 miners are on effective strike, Mr. Krustyu Petkov, leader of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (KNSB), told reporters today. The KNSB members' strike is in its third day now. The other major trade union, the Podkrepa Labour Confederation, formally distanced itself from the strike yesterday.

In Mr. Petkov's words, coal-mining workers are also likely to go on strike on Friday, December 10. BTA correspondents in coal-mining regions in Kurdzhali, southeastern Bulgaria, and Blagoevgrad, southwestern Bulgaria, report today that miners from several uranium mines have joined the strike.

The figures on striking miners presented by the KNSB are not true, Podkrepa Labour Confederation leader Konstantin Trenchev said today before his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Evgeni Matinchev. The Podkrepa figures indicate the number of those on strike is 1,500. The meeting will continue into the afternoon.

At its session today, the National Council for Tripartite Cooperation (a consultative body with the Council of Ministers) endorsed a draft agreement amending a Council of Ministers decree on the restructuring of coal-mining and the phasing-out of inefficient production capacities. The decree is likely to be considered and adopted at the upcoming regular cabinet session on Thursday [9 December]. It is to decide which mines will be closed down due to unprofitability and within what terms and where to channel dismissed miners. The updated version of the decree complements the list and timetable of closing down inefficient productions. Experts will reassess the efficiency of certain sectors. The 1994 draft budget envisages 1.2 billion leva for closing down 47 mines.

Deputy Prime Minister Matinchev said yesterday the government had fulfilled 19 out of 23 miners' demands. Also yesterday the government decided to grant funds to the most urgent needs of mines and collieries which are not to be closed down.

If negotiations proceed like this and an agreement is forged on Thursday between the strike committee and the cabinet, we will suspend the strike for ten days and will stage a referendum to see if miners approve or disprove of the agreement with the government, Krustyu Petkov told reporters. If the miners express approval, there will be no tension several months; if not, the strike will resume.

All Bulgarian post-communist governments have had problems with the miners. They demand wages and a clear-cut programme for a restructuring of the sector, which after the breakup of the markets of the ex-socialist countries is severely unprofitable. Funds for salaries have often been found, especially at the beginning of winter. The restructuring of the sector, however, is still unresolved, as it entails a great number of social problems. Many parts of the country count mainly or even solely on ore-mining as means of living.

Council Strips Slatinski of 'Political Confidence'

AU0812074593 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] On 7 December the National Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] stripped Nikolay Slatinski of its political confidence and recommended to the SDS parliamentary faction to deal with the case.

In a special statement for the mass media, Slatinski described the decision of the SDS political organ as a crude mistake.

The Radical Democratic Party demanded a postponement of the discussion of Slatinski's case, but the request was not granted. This came about at a briefing after the meeting.

The SDS National Coordinating Council decided to reactivate the SDS Stara Zagora Coordinating Council. It also expressed support for resolving the personal files issue, something that could be made possible by an immediate decision of the National Assembly.

Government Approves Trade Negotiations With EU

AU0712101193 Sofia BTA in English 1838 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 6 (BTA)—The Council of Ministers today approved a draft law on reducing the harmful impact of household and industrial waste on the environment. The law provides for identifying the owners of waste and regulating their obligations and responsibilities. It bans dumping waste at places other than dumping grounds and lays down new rules for transboundary waste shipment, including payment of damages clauses.

The cabinet today gave consent to carry out negotiations in Brussels next year on harmonizing regulations on trade in textile articles, ferrous metals, small cattle and

meat between Bulgaria and the European Union. The members of the Bulgarian delegation will be named later on.

The government named the Bulgarian members in the Bulgarian-Romanian Government Commission on Environmental Protection. The Bulgarian side will be headed by Deputy Environment Minister Khristo Dalchev.

The government approved and will ask parliament to ratify an accord with the Netherlands on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of income tax evasion signed in Sofia in 1990.

The cabinet approved draft agreements on legal assistance in civil and criminal proceedings and on extradition between Bulgaria and Kazakhstan and an agreement on reciprocal investment protection and promotion between Bulgaria and Hungary.

Government spokesman Raycho Raykov reported that meeting behind closed doors today, the ministers decided to present their views on the structural reform in 1994 at a meeting on Thursday [9 December).

Foreign Ministry 'Pleased' With Accord Approval

AU0712144493 Sofia BTA in English 1237 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 7 (BTA)—The Council of the European Union (EU) endorsed today the Bulgaria-EU Interim Agreement on Trade and Related Matters, Bulgaria's permanent representation at the European Union in Brussels reports.

Bulgaria's European Community (EC) association agreement was formally signed in Brussels on March 8, 1993. The package of signed documents also encompassed the Bulgaria-EC Interim Trade Agreement, which was to take effect on July 1 this year. The EU Council decided today that the delay in the entry into force would not violate the liberalization framework of the attained agreements. The decision was taken in view of the difficulties the Bulgarian economy sustains as a result of the strict observance of the embargo on Serbia and Montenegro. Figures released by Bulgaria's Ministry of Trade indicate that 60 percent of Bulgaria's export is effected through embargo-affected territories, while the Bulgarian Government holds the country's embargo-related losses totalled $2,300 million in late September.

The European Union considered the interim trade agreement with Bulgaria on several occasions but failed to approve it. An objection to the trade regime with third countries was raised at the June 8 EC foreign ministers meeting in Italy, the agreement was not endorsed, at this year's session of [two garbled words]—either. Several days later Bulgaria's foreign minister handed a memorandum to the EC ambassadors at Sofia which aired a profound concern with that fact. Nonetheless, the agreement was not endorsed at the November 26 Brussels meeting and this time it was blocked by Spain. Immediately afterwards, the Bulgarian prime minister summoned the secretary of the Spanish Embassy in Sofia, handed him a letter on Spain's stance and expressed gratitude to the other EC member countries, which supported Bulgaria's position.

On receiving the news from Brussels at noon the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry immediately issued a declaration. The Foreign Ministry is pleased with the decision of the Council of the European Union to approve the interim agreement on trade and related matters between Bulgaria and the European Community, the document says. It will allow Bulgaria to avail itself of the improved access to the union's markets envisaged in the agreements on the free movement of commodities of the European association agreement, as well as in the clauses of the additional protocol on accelerating trade liberalization. As its interim agreement enters into force, Bulgaria joins the other Central and East European countries, whose trade with the European Union is based on the principles underlying the European association agreements, the ministry also said.

Bulgaria's Foreign Ministry has already submitted to the European Union member countries an estimate of its losses resulting from the delay in the entry into force of its interim agreement. "We expect the European Commission and its members to help the Republic of Bulgaria overcome the difficulties caused by the delay in the agreement's entry into force through better terms of access of Bulgarian exports to the markets of the European Union," the document also reads.

Yordanov-Led Delegation Ends China Visit

AU0712101293 Sofia BTA in English 1836 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 6 (BTA)—The development of contacts between the parliaments of China and Bulgaria will help deepen contacts between the two countries, said Rong Yiren, vice-president of China, at a meeting with Aleksandur Yordanov, National Assembly chairman, who heads a Bulgarian parliamentary delegation to China, parliament's press office reported tonight. According to Rong Yiren, Bulgaria and China hold identical views on a number of international issues and aim to develop their economic and technological cooperation. Mr. Yordanov voiced Bulgaria's desire to cooperate with China. The sides conveyed greetings exchanged by the two presidents, Zhelyu Zhelev and Jiang Zemin.

The Bulgarian parliamentary delegation went to China on November 29. During the visit it met with the chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Policy Committee, the chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the vice-chairman of the State Council and other officials.

Klaus Rejects Lux's Statement on ODS

AU0612183093 Prague DENNI TELEGRAF in Czech 4 Nov 93 p 1

[Interview with Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus by Viktor Krejci; place and date not given: "The Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party Is Way to the Left of the Civic Democratic Party"]

[Text] [Krejci] According to Josef Lux, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party [KDU-CSL], the Civic Democratic Party [ODS] is not the same party it used to be when the coalition agreement between the KDU-CSL and the ODS was concluded, since there have been changes of opinions within the ODS.

[Klaus] I have to resolutely reject Mr. Lux's statement. No one in the ODS has observed such changes, and no ODS body has noticed it. I do not understand Mr. Lux's deduction.

On the other hand, no one has ever doubted for a second that the KDU-CSL is a party that stands far to the left of the ODS. It dreams about a different type of society. When we were signing the coalition treaty, we were quite aware of this fact. Nevertheless, we know that from the economic and social viewpoints, we are achieving results that correspond to the opinions of all four coalition parties.

It has always been clear that, in most economic and social matters, the ODS has a different opinion to the KDU-CSL. Our opinions have not changed in that respect. If the KDU-CSL has discovered it today, then it testifies to the fact that they did not analyze the situation properly.

If Mr. Lux speaks about other problems, such as the Church property issue or the territorial division, then I have to say that our opinions have always differed. The KDU-CSL has a strong position in south Moravia, and therefore is interested in pushing for a certain type of territorial division. Anyone who has brains has understood from the very beginning that our opinions on this matter—as well as on Church property—are much different. No matter how profound is Chairman Lux's analysis, I consider his conclusions nonsensical and I am rejecting them. There have been no opinion changes in our party.

Parliament Approves 1994 State Budget

LD0712190393 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1600 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Milan Repka, a Czech Radio reporter, is at the microphone in the parliamentary building in Prague to provide the latest report on the proceedings of the plenary session of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament.

[Repka] Shortly after 1600 hours, the Chamber of Deputies approved the budget for the coming year. One hundred and eleven deputies voted in favor of the budget; 52 were against with 26 abstaining. According to the outcome of the voting, the draft budget received the support of all coalition parties. Left Bloc deputies were solidly against, apart from Deputy Jan Navratil, who after the voting took place apologized to the chamber that, although he was against the budget he pressed by mistake the affirmative button, thereby giving his support to the budget. Liberal Social Union deputies were at one in abstaining from voting.

On the other hand, the Club of Deputies of the Liberal National Social Party supported the budget. A section of Social Democrats voted for the budget while another section voted against. [passage omitted]

Budget Details Outlined

AU0812081193 Prague CTK in English 1637 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Prague 7 Dec (CTK)—The budget is balanced, with revenues and expenditures each amounting to 381.8 billion crowns (12.7 billion USD), with the expenditures to be divided as follows:
President's Office—282 million crowns;
Parliamentary Office —574 million;
Government Office—234 million;
Foreign Ministry—2.8 billion;
Defence Ministry—27 billion;
Employment and Social Affairs—139 billion;
Environment Ministry—1.26 billion;
Education Ministry—42 billion;
Health Ministry—6.6 billion;
Culture Ministry—2.5 billion;
Transport Ministry—20.5 billion;
Agriculture Ministry—11.5 billion;
Justice Ministry—5.5 billion;
Prosecutor General's Office—674 million;
Constitutional Court—30 million.
Revenues are to come from the following sources:
Government credits—8.86 billion;
Non-tax revenues—15.5 billion;
Tax and customs revenues—237 billion;
Welfare and unemployment insurance payments—120 billion.

There are approximately 30 crowns to the US dollar.

Parties' Positions Outlined

AU0812081293 Prague CTK in English 1812 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Prague 7 Dec (CTK)—All the deputies of the governing coalition parties present voted for the budget bill, as did those of the Liberal National Social Party (LSNS).

Against it were deputies from the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD), the Liberal Social Union (LSU), the Self-Governing Democracy Movement for Moravia and

Silesia (HSDMS), the Assembly for the Republic-Czechoslovak Republican Party (SPR-RSC) and the Left Bloc (LB). Left Bloc Deputy Jan Navratil at first voted for the budget, but immediately announced that he had pressed the wrong button on his electronic voting device.

There were 26 abstentions.

Premier Vaclav Klaus (ODS) told CTK that he was satisfied not only with the version of the budget that was approved, but also with the voting. The ratio of 111:52 would have the effect of a signal to the world, he said, and pointed out that the Hungarian budget had been passed with a ratio of 132:102.

Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik also said he was satisfied with the form in which the budget had been passed, saying that there had been no dramatic changes to the government's proposal.

Amendment To Security Service Law Approved

AU0812081493 Prague CTK in English 1906 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Prague Dec 7 (CTK)—The Czech parliament today passed a government-proposed amendment to the law on the Security and Information Service (BIS), extending the validity of the law to June 30, 1994.

Problems surrounding the intelligence services should be legislatively resolved by the new deadline. The old law set December 31, 1993 as the time limit for the validity of the legal norms concerning the BIS.

The parliament also began discussion today on a proposed amendment to the law on the conditions for transferring state property to other persons.

The session will continue on Wednesday [8 December].

Poll Shows Confidence in President Havel

AU0812075493 Prague CTK in English 1337 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Prague Dec 7 (CTK)—Czech President Vaclav Havel is more trusted by women (75 percent) than men (64 percent) and by young people (79 percent among those under 29), a poll conducted by the Institute for Public Opinion Research (IVVM) among 802 Czechs in mid-November revealed.

Trust in president, government and parliament:

	September		October		November	
	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
President	69	28	73	25	70	29
Government	57	39	60	37	59	37
Parliament	26	66	23	69	25	68

Agriculture Minister Calls For Farming Subsidies

AU0812080393 Prague CTK in English 1650 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Prague Dec 7 (CTK)—Minister of Agriculture Josef Lux today called for the predominantly domestic production of foodstuffs sold on the Czech market, and said that farmers should be subsidized by the government in order to reach this goal.

Speaking at the Prague Agricultural College, Lux said that the government's long-term policy... should strive for the production in the Czech Republic of a majority of the foodstuffs sold on our market, and for our agricultural policy to approach that of the European Community.

The means for reaching these goals could include subsidy grants to farmers taken from the state budget or arranged through the Support and Guarantee Fund, Lux said, adding that other possibilities include the cutting of various taxes for farmers, the functioning of the State Fund for Market Regulation, and the consistent application of the bankruptcy law.

Lux said that the government's short-term policy goals centred on the completion of privatization and the smoothing out of property relationships in agriculture. Within this phase, according to Lux, both capital and consultation and information must be made available to farmers in the financial and banking sector.

Lux also called for all government branches to participate in policy making, especially the premier and the Foreign Ministry, in view of agricultural policy's international nature.

Austria's Klestil Holds Talks With Klaus, Uhde

AU0712193593 Prague CTK in English 1423 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Prague Dec 7 (CTK)—Austrian President Thomas Klestil today met Premier Vaclav Klaus and exchanged views on the completion of the Temelin nuclear power station in South Bohemia and the demands of Sudeten Austrians expelled from Czechoslovakia.

Klestil declined to comment on the plans of the Czech Republic to join NATO, emphasising that the matter was exclusively the concern of the Czech Government.

Earlier Klestil met Parliamentary Chairman Milan Uhde and asked him, among other things, about relations between parliament and the government. Uhde said relations were without any kind of tension or conflict and mentioned the good cooperation between the two bodies. He informed Klestil that the Czech parliament had to pass an enormous quantity of laws in the period of

transformation. He said he expected elections to the Czech Senate, the as yet unfilled second chamber to the parliament, to be held in the autumn of next year.

Uhde also explained the process of appointing justices to the Constitutional Court. He said he expected President Vaclav Havel to propose a candidate for the post of the fifteenth judge soon.

Klestil informed Uhde of Austria's experiences in trying to join the European Community, pointing out that it was necessary to have constant meetings with representatives of member states and not only with Brussels.

Deputy chairman of parliament, Jiri Vlach, who took part in the meeting, spoke of the very good Austro-Czech relations on the regional level and requested that the top echelons of government in Austria fully appreciate this. He said Austria's experience with devolving power to provinces was useful to the Czech Republic in the current debate about the most suitable form of territorial administration in the Czech Republic.

Prague Mayor Jan Koukal also met Klestil today and praised Austria's help in the transformation process of the Czech Republic. Koukal expressed his regret about the recent letter bomb attack on Vienna Mayor Helmut Zilk and wished a speedy recovery on the part of the citizens of Prague.

Klestil today concludes his first, two-day official visit to the Czech Republic, which takes place at the invitation of Czech President Vaclav Havel.

Havel Sympathizes With Bomb Victims

LD0712193393 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1700 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Austrian President Thomas Klestil ended his two-day official visit to Prague this afternoon. Klara Stejskalova reports:

[Stejskalova] [passage omitted] Before President Klestil's departure the presidents of the two states gave a news conference. Thomas Klestil stressed that his visit was important for further development of good Austrian-Czech relations as well as for strengthening stability in Central Europe. In this context Vaclav Havel said:

[Begin Havel recording] This visit has taken place at a time of very regrettable attacks in Austria. We have kept receiving reports about them. I would like to express my sympathy to the victims and condemn this sort of political terrorism. In general I think that these events should be perceived in a wider context, too. What has emerged is that the awful events in the former Yugoslavia are indeed not an entirely local matter, a local speciality, neither figuratively nor literally. They radiate a kind of brutality.

What has just happened in Austria can happen anywhere else in Europe at any time. Europe should come to understand this as an appeal to show greater initiative in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, above all in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [end recording]

Klestil Concludes Visit

AU0712193793 Prague CTK in English 1557 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Prague Dec 6 (CTK)—Czech President Vaclav Havel met today with his Austrian counterpart Thomas Klestil at the close of the latter's two-day visit to Prague.

At a press conference following their meeting, the two presidents expressed apprehension about the developments in the former Yugoslavia and stated that the international community should be more engaged in trying to resolve the crisis.

Havel also returned to the subject of Sudeten Austrians expelled from Czechoslovakia after World War II, saying that it would be very wrong and very dangerous to fail to admit some facts to ourselves only because someone might be able to make some legal claims, which might be unacceptable to us, from them, he said.

Klestil concluded his visit with a ceremony in the first courtyard of Prague Castle.

Swedish Defense Minister Visits UNPROFOR Base

AU0812080993 Prague CTK in English 1604 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Cesky Krumlov, South Bohemia Dec 7 (CTK)—Swedish Defence Minister Andres Bjork, on a two-day visit to the Czech Republic, today visited the UN peacekeeping forces base here to become acquainted with the activities of the Czech battalion serving within the UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force] in the former Yugoslavia.

Base commander, Major Ludovit Cirok, informed Bjork about the envisaged restructuring of the unit in connection with the expected twofold increase of the number of its troops. He said that after the number of troops is doubled, a reconnaissance unit and a sappers unit would be created within the Czech UNPROFOR battalion.

Bjork said he firmly believed that the two countries' armies should closely cooperate, particularly within the UN peace-keeping operations. He said that Swedish UNPROFOR units are being trained in the same way as the Czech one is.

Bjork stressed that only specially trained soldiers could be sent to places of conflict, and not troops with only standard training, as is being done by some countries which he declined to name.

Meciar Allegedly Mobilized Troops Against Ukraine

AU0812131893 Prague CTK in English 1257 GMT 8 Dec 93

["Meciar Intended To Lead Army Against Ukraine—Transcript"—CTK headline]

[Excerpt] Kosice, East Slovakia, Dec 8 (CTK)—Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar mobilised three east Slovakian Army divisions in October in expectation of Ukrainian military action if Subcarpathian Rus, the eastern part of Ukraine bordering Slovakia, had declared autonomy, the daily SLOVENSKY VYCHOD reported today.

According to the transcript of a speech he gave near Kosice on November 27, Meciar himself says he had intended to take the divisions under his personal command in case fighting broke out.

Meciar last week charged that, concerning other matters at least, the transcript was a fabrication and distortion of his words. He also accused the people who recorded his speech, as well as the opposition-oriented SLOVENSKY VYCHOD, of seeking to discredit him.

According to the closing part of the transcript, which SLOVENSKY VYCHOD published today, the Slovak premier said: "We were expecting that if it came to a declaration of autonomy and civic unrest, it would spill over our border. We did not want to unsettle anyone politically, but I was in charge of the staffs, police and army, and expecting, if something should happen, to take all three of the divisions in eastern Slovakia to the border. As their leader."

SLOVENSKY VYCHOD stated in its introduction that the transcript had been verified and the newspaper had proof of its authenticity. [passage omitted]

Meciar on NATO, Minorities, Journalist List

LD0812113593 Bratislava STV 1 Television Network in Slovak 2005 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Interview with Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar by domestic and foreign correspondents in Bratislava; date not given; from the "Press Club" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Prime Minister, last week the NATO Cooperation Council met in Brussels and, as several times before, we heared during this event that we could not count on rapidly becoming a member of NATO. As a temporary alternative, the United States offered us a program called Partnership for Peace. This program, however, has been defined rather nebulously. Do you feel that this proposal should supress our ambitions as to security guarantees in NATO?

[Meciar] The situation which arose in Europe after the disintegration of the two blocs means that NATO has lost an enemy. It has to redefine itself, its new interests, its strategic position, and it must come to terms with what has happened in Europe and (?in) the pan-European system of security. Identifying the self in NATO is not easy but it is exceptionally significant.

Furthermore, the question of expanding NATO cannot proceed at the rate unrealistically imagined by some of our politicians: We will come, knock at the door, and we will be accepted. For us, the question of expanding NATO membership is not only the guarantee of security, but it is also connected with the solution of a number of political and technical questions.

Above all, NATO is not interested in accepting countries where there is no guarantee of stability. [passage omitted] NATO is interested in the birth of a certain model of political and economic relations, as well as a certain model of a security structure, including the army. For example, bringing the army on to a civilian footing. Membership in NATO also demands from us a change of military technology. The technology at our disposal is the technology of the Warsaw Pact. In relations with NATO, it was built as a hostile technology. That is why, for example, communications systems exlude the possibility of understanding each other. This means that if we want to be members of NATO we will have to change all this. This is a relatively costly matter.

Partnership for Peace, which is being proposed by the United States, is one of the proposals. The second proposal, I think, is Dutch. Partnership for Peace is also supported by the Russians. It envisions concluding bilateral treaties and, within them, defining common interests, as well as forms of organization and methods of cooperation.

I think, even if this does not fulfill our original expectations of quickly joining NATO, that this is the path which can clearly determine this process; it can set clear rules and obligations for both sides. So, personally, I would welcome this initiative and support it. Naturally, the Slovak Republic will do everything to become an honorable partner.

[Correspondent] This Partnership for Peace program, is it a replacement or a transition period?

[Meciar] I think it is a transition period which must be overcome. Then there will be one unbalanced aspect missing—and Europe as a continent is building its security system. And it must build a security system for everybody—it must take into consideration also the existence of Russia, it must take into consideration the existence and the arms potential of Ukraine. That is the development which is currently taking place on this continent. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent, in English with consecutive Slovak translation] The minorities in your republic represent 15-20 percent of the entire population. It seems to us rather unusual that so much energy is spent on their issues, especially as regards the chaos created in the context of your membership of the Council of Europe,

and generally as far as your relations with your Hungarian neighbor are concerned.

[Meciar] [passage omitted] As far as our policy on minorities is concerned, it is important for us for two reasons. If we want to build a democratic society we need to create the space for a dignified life for every single citizen, including minorities' political rights. [passage omitted]

The Hungarian minority is a specific problem in the sphere of international relations. This is not because of the conditions in our country. I have many friends among the Hungarians, whom I respect greatly. [passage omitted]

There are no fundamental ethnic problems in Slovakia. There is no racial hate here, there are no ethnic clashes here, there is no (?idea of) instability here.

However, at the same time we have to take into account other trends existing here. Above all, there is a fundamental difference in the perception of the ethnicity level. My personal view is that it is necessary to respect minorities' rights and respect people from all minorities, while respecting the border of this state and the territory of this state. However, there are politicians who say that minorities' rights should go as far as offering them the possibility of transferring [their allegiance] to another state. This is the fundamental conflict and dilemma. [passage omitted]

As far as the Hungarian minority is concerned, things are complicated by the Hungarian Government's policy in this sphere. Its doctrine, its interpretation of minorities' rights goes above the European standard. We can see that suddenly activities concerning this minority are being coordinated in all the neighboring states. We can hear voices calling for a revision of the 1920 Trianon Treaty which regulated the post-1918 situation, we can see such attempts. This is the reality.

My counterpart [Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef] Antall says that he is the prime minister of 15 million Hungarians. However, as regards those who are citizens of the Slovak Republic, I consider myself to be their prime minister. Why is he trying to interfere in my sphere of activities? I do not like this. [passage omitted]

A question was asked here about place names, let me talk about this. We put forward a document in the government and it has already reached the National Council, which, by the end of the year will approve the right of minorities to have the name of a town in their own language, providing the minority makes up over 20 percent of the population—compared with 30 percent in Austria. I cannot see why this should be a problem anymore. In this way the recommendation of the Council of Europe is being complied with, too. Wherever there are other minorities living, for instance a mixed population of Romanies, Hungarians, and Slovaks they will have three different place name signs. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Prime minister, recently you publicly announced that the late Roman Zelenay left you a list of 40 Slovak journalists who allegedly receive from abroad dollar sums of between $300 and $1,200 for writing against the government. You also said that work is under way on the truthfulness of this information and that when it is established whether or not this is true it will be published. I am interested in the way this work is going because I cannot imagine how in a democratic society one can work on whether someone has or does not have dollars and for what purpose. And the second question is connected with this: Could you identify the country which would be interested in paying a journalist in Slovakia to write against the government?

[Meciar] There is nothing undemocratic about this because everybody in every state must pay taxes. And why should we not look at whether these incomes have been declared? If they have been declared, it is all right. If they have not been declared, one has to talk about it. And so it must be investigated whether or not the tax returns submitted are valid. These are the ways this is being investigated. [passage omitted] Why did they consciously falsify documents and why did they cheat? Why did the behavior of these people change? What have they got in common? Slovakia is not well covered for news and it is doing everything to safeguard its protection—I am not disclosing any secrets. Why should we become a paradise for various bugging, recording, and other games? [passage omitted]

As for specifying those who could be interested in it, you are forcing me to conjecture. But I would rather talk about facts. We will wait and see. Things will be investigated and we will be able to close the matter.

[Correspondent] Pardon me, prime minister, I did not understand your reply. How can you prove that somebody is getting money from abroad for writing against the government? I simply do not like this phrase.

[Meciar] The data I mentioned as one of the things that Roman Zelenay handed over to me as state secretary before his death is correct. Several of us know this document and we are investigating its credibility because Roman knew the sources and this information was lost at his death. That is why we are trying to reconstruct what he knew. We are working in the normal democratic conditions in which every tax office in every state works when trying to establish who has not declared his income.

[Correspondent] Incomes and tax returns—that is one thing. It is another thing if someone publicly says that 40 journalists get 30 pieces of silver for writing against the government.

[Meciar] Is this how I said it? Then you are quoting your statements and not mine. Let us distinguish between what you are saying and what I am saying. I am not denying your right to have your own view, but do not ascribe to me statements which I have not made.

Meciar Comments on Slovak Budget for 1994

AU0812075393 Prague CTK in English 2127 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 3 (CTK)—If all parts of the society work efficiently, the budgetary income in 1994 might be higher than presently proposed, and the deficit budget might thus become a balanced one, Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar told the Slovak Radio today.

Meciar, also the chairman of the ruling coalition Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) stressed that he considered the stance of the HZDS coalition partner, the Slovak National Party (SNS), markedly more matter-of-fact and more accommodating, than the statement made by SNS Chairman Ludovit Cernak.

Meciar was reacting to the comments made by Cernak before the state budget was approved by the government. Cernak said he approved only some 60 percent of the draft budget, as he saw some data, which the document draws on, as unrealistic. Meciar said that the planned budgetary income has certain reserves in the form of receivables worth several billion crowns. However, their gaining depends on the solvency of the payer, Meciar stated. He added that he expected this sphere to improve in 1994. He drew attention to tax evasions with such goods as alcohol and tobacco, underlining that the inspection would essentially tighten as of January 1, 1994. Meciar said that it was real to expect a growth of gross domestic product in the next year. The end of the country's economic decline can also be, surely, expected, as well as the shift to the economic growth, Meciar said.

The Slovak Government approved the draft state budget for 1994 on December 2. The budget counts on an income of 124-126 billion crowns (about $3.790 billion), and a deficit of 14 billion crowns ($424 million). The expected inflation rate is 12 percent. The budget envisages a 17 percent unemployment rate and zero growth in the gross domestic product.

Cernak May Not Support Budget

AU0712173593

[Editorial Report] Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak on 3 December on page 1 carries a 650-word interview with Ludovit Cernak, chairman of the Slovak National Party [SNS], by Peter Toth entitled "Will the Government Survive?" In the interview, which was conducted on 2 December at an unidentified place, Cernak discusses his party's objections to the government's draft budget for 1994. Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak on 3 December on page 3 carries a 120-word "zl"-signed report on an SNS briefing in Bratislava on 2 December, which also dealt with the party's stand on the budget.

The SLOVENSKY DENNIK interview with Ludovit Cernak includes the following passage:

[Toth] "The budget is based on the assumption of a zero-growth of GDP, a 12 percent rate of inflation, and a 17 percent rate of unemployment. Are these macroeconomic assumptions realistic?

[Cernak] "The budget must be assessed as one entity and I do not consider the underlying assumptions realistic. If we fail to pump into agriculture at least the resources that it demands, we will fuel inflation through food prices. If the department of transportation does not have its budget covered in the way it foresees it should be covered, it will have to raise fares, which will fuel inflation again, which cannot be 12 percent but will definitely be higher. In other words, there are still too many unknowns in the budget for us to be able to deliver our opinion on it in its entirety. It is a very optimistic draft. There will have to be a certain amount of leeway in some of these indicators because their sum total, including the projected deficit, is not realistic.

[Toth] "Other economic experts, particularly from the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH] and the Party of the Democratic Left [SDL], have also expressed their reservations about the projected macroeconomic indicators. You have declared your readiness to hold discussions with them. Do you think that your coalition partner will display the same accommodating attitude?

[Cernak] "I am convinced he will. Mr. Koctuch, chairman of the parliamentary national economic committee, listens to [KDH economic expert] Mr. Dzurinda and [SDL economic expert] Mr. Kosnar just as he listens to the views of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia's own economists.

[Toth] "The plenary meetings of parliament have so far not borne this out.

[Cernak] "Let us wait and see what the discussions in the plenum will be like.

[Toth] "Do you think that the government will survive this critical point—the debate on the budget?

[Cernak] "No comment."

The Bratislava REPUBLIKA report on the SNS briefing held in Bratislava on 2 December includes the following passage:

"SNS Chairman Ludovit Cernak said that the SNS Central Council placed the party under the obligation to act toward the coalition partner as a partner, and not as a vassal. Therefore, SNS deputies will not support even the budget at any price. Ludovit Cernak said, among other things, that the SNS advocates a realistic budget and not a budget, the very draft of which sows the seeds of inflation."

Kovac on Proposed Resignation of Meciar

LD0712230493 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1730 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Studio interview with Slovak President Michal Kovac by unidentified correspondents; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. President, Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar has admitted that you suggested that he should resign. Could you tell us when this happened and under what circumstances, as well as the reasons why you took such an action?

[Kovac] I would like to say first of all that a conversation took place between me and Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] representatives on 6 October, which means shortly after their first talks with the Slovak National Party [SNS] on the formation of a coalition ended in failure. At that time it appeared that no further talks would take place between HZDS and SNS and the situation seemed to be open. There was a danger that the parliament might express no confidence in the government at any time. At the same time I expressed my view about possible alternatives. In connection with this I said that I saw in that situation two possible alternatives. One was that the prime minister would offer his resignation. In that situation I would have asked him once again to form a new government. This would have enabled him freely to seek suitable people for the new government. As regards the second option, I said that, if the opposition decided to attempt to ask for a vote of no confidence, once again I regarded it as the correct thing that the prime minister should know that in the event that a vote of no confidence went against him the president would no longer be able to ask him to form a new government; he would have to seek another suitable person in the HZDS who would be able to form a coalition government. I stressed that I could not imagine a government without the HZDS, since the HZDS had won the elections and it had therefore the right to continue in the government. [passage omitted]

I do not forget the historic role of the HZDS and the great responsibility currently borne by the HZDS. I support all steps—the overall program—aimed at strengthening democracy in our society, at developing a pluralistic system, at observing laws and the Constitution, at preserving the independence of the press and other media, and so on. In my view, the current government is striving to achieve all those things.

However, I do not subscribe to the principle of resting on one's laurels—someone resting on his past laurels. People should receive proper moral and political praise and reward for what they have done, but as far as future [word indistinct] use of people is concerned, I repeat what we in the HZDS unequivocally stated during our election campaign; that is, that we should surround ourselves with experts.

I bear this promise of the HZDS in mind. Moreover, as president, my duty is to have people from a wide political spectrum in my office. However, at the same time I am sure that I have not employed in the Presidential Office any enemy of the Slovak Republic, any enemy of Slovak statehood. I have assured HZDS officials, and I use this occasion to assure our citizens, that if I were to discover that anyone in the Presidential Office is active as an enemy of Slovak statehood, an enemy of Slovakia, I would make him leave very fast.

[Correspondent] The prime minister was supposed to have said at Zlata Idka that each minister has three replacements. Do you regard this as being a positive phenomenon in our political life?

[Kovac] I am glad that the HZDS chairman said that there are replacements for everyone. This is also in line with my notion of the matter. I have explained on more than one occasion before various representatives of political parties and movements that they are dutybound to offer to the citizen and to Slovakia in general alternative solutions with respect to persons who might share in the realization of our political aims. I heard mostly that alternatives existed. Nonetheless some people believed that they existed elsewhere, with the exception of the HZDS. If it is true that the prime minister spoke about this matter in this vein, then this is a gratifying phenomenon, since it makes it possible to seek various options in connection with putting forward the names of political representatives for government, state, and other offices. This would enable us to create greater cooperation and credibility, and in the final analysis it would ensure a calm political climate to enable us to solve our urgent problems.

President Kovac Signs Law on Names, Surnames

AU0812080093 Prague CTK in English 1533 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava Dec 7 (CTK)—Slovak President Michal Kovac signed a law today on names and surnames, his spokesman Anton Bodis told CTK.

The law, which was passed by parliament at the end of September, evoked marked indignation from Hungarian minority parties. The core of the dispute was the legislators' decision to add the feminine suffix -ova to all women's names, including those belonging to ethnic minorities.

Bodis said that Kovac decided to sign the law on the basis of Premier Vladimir Meciar's assurances that the interpretation of the law allows members of ethnic minorities to enter their surnames in official documents without adding -ova. The problem is to be resolved through an amendment to the law on registries, which, Meciar said, the government will soon submit to parliament.

At its session today, Meciar's cabinet returned the law on registries to be completed, and plans to re-evaluate it at its next meeting.

Hungarians To Appeal

LD0712212093 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 2000 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] The Coexistence [Egyuetteles—ethnic Hungarian] political movement in Slovakia will appeal to the Council of Europe because a law on the use of names has been enacted in Slovakia that is detrimental to minorities. Slovak President Michal Kovac has signed the law, which rules that the suffix -ova is a compulsory part of female names. Miklos Duray, chairman of Coexistence, recalled that during a visit to Slovakia, a competent official of the Council of Europe indicated that he, in his report, would object to the legislation if it was sanctioned by the president.

Defamation Charges Brought Against Lexa

AU0812075593 Prague CTK in English 1256 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava Dec 7 (CTK)—The Bratislava municipal investigator today brought a charge of defamation of the republic and its representatives against State Secretary to the Ministry of Privatisation Ivan Lexa.

CTK was informed of the charge by the director of the Investigation Office of the Police Department of the Slovak Ministry of the Interior, Jaroslav Ivor.

Ivor said the charges had been made on the basis of a recommendation from the Prosecutor General's Office, and concerned statements made in the dailies SME and REPUBLIKA and at a press conference at the Slovak Government Office. In these statements, Lexa had cast doubt on the morals of Slovak President Michal Kovac who had refused to appoint him privatisation minister in November and on Kovac's ability in his post with regard to his age. Several statements were on the border or beyond the border of what is ethical, Ivor said, echoing the words which Lexa had used about Kovac. He said the municipal investigator had been chiefly concerned with deciding what was criticism and what defamation, and had reached the conclusion that this was defamation.

Asked whether the bringing of charges against Lexa would not influence the way he performed his function as manager of the Slovak Government Office and state secretary of the Ministry of Privatisation, Ivor said that it was up to Lexa's superiors to decide how to deal with the matter.

In an interview for the independent daily SME on November 11, Lexa said that Kovac had refused to appoint him to the new coalition government for purely personal reasons. He told SME that the dispute dated from before Kovac became president, when Lexa, as he himself said, had spoken out against his, Kovac's, candidacy several times. I doubted his morals, professional capability and his age. I backed this up with his low work output and attitudes which were on the border or beyond the border of what is ethical, Lexa said in the interview. He went on to accuse Kovac of backbiting, exaggerated ambition and using conspiratorial methods in his work.

Cernak on Prosecutor General Controversy

AU0812075293 Prague CTK in English 0913 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Bratislava, Dec 3 (CTK)— [passage omitted] There is no agreement between the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the Slovak National Party (SNS) on removing the prosecutor general," SNS Chairman Ludovit Cernak says in an interview with the tabloid daily NOVY CAS today.

Cernak asserts that it is Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar who is striving to remove Prosecutor General Vojtech Bacho. Meciar has sharply criticized Bacho's work recently. His problems with Bacho stem from the time when the prosecutor general opened an investigation into remarks made by his colleague Ivan Lexa, who is close to Meciar, addressed to President Michal Kovac. Kovac had refused to name Lexa, who was nominated by Meciar, to the post of privatization minister.

Regarding Meciar's attempts to secure the resignation of Slovak National Bank Vice-Governor Marian Tkac following a 4.2 million-dollar affair over letters of credit, Cernak says that "the SNS hopes that the Slovak Republic is a legal state and that we will not turn back, that we will not find ourselves in the 50's, when people were condemned on the basis of construed, overheard information."

Cernak refused to comment on Meciar's public remarks that Tkac was Cernak's brother-in-law.

Cernak concludes the interview by saying that "you must put this question (of accusing and casting doubt on various people) to the premier, because if I told you what I really think, the HZDS-SNS coalition would fall apart." [passage omitted]

Ministry: Kovac Must Execute Meciar's Proposals

AU0812073793 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 6 Dec 93 pp 1, 3

[Statement issued by Jozef Olah, head of the Justice Ministry Office; place and date not given: "He Who Bears the Responsibility Has the Right To Decide"]

[Excerpts] Several items have been published in our newspapers recently dealing with the interpretation of those articles of the Slovak Constitution that lay down the right of appointment and recall enjoyed by the president of the republic. In an item carried in REPUBLIKA on 1 December, a Dr. Dvonc even calls for an expert to comment on this issue. A commission of experts from individual branches of the law was set up at the Justice Ministry in connection with the need to adopt

a point of view on behalf of the Constitutional Court. This commission dealt with the interpretation of the appropriate articles of the Slovak Constitution. It adopted a point of view, from which I quote the following for your readers:

When determining authority in decisionmaking in a law-governed state, all state bodies proceed from the principle that this right should pertain to the person who bears the responsibility. It is unquestionable that the president is not responsible for the work of the government—that is, the right to make decisions on appointing and recalling ministers should not pertain to him.

Following on from this, the conclusion is well founded that in a law-governed state, especially if it is a parliamentary democracy, a proposal from the prime minister to recall a minister is an incentive to issue a decree of recall. This argument has also been justified by the grammatical interpretation of Article 111 of the Constitution in which it is stated that, based on a proposal from the prime minister, the Slovak president appoints and recalls the other members of the government and entrusts them with running the ministries. According to the grammatical interpretation, the terms "recalls" and "appoints" have, in the context of the law, the quality of an imperative.

Furthermore, according to the point of view, the Constitution is composed as a systematic and logical unit. If the National Council of the Slovak Republic (Article 116, Paragraph 3) expresses no confidence in an individual minister, the president of the republic is obliged to recall him. In the subsequent section, which systematically and logically follows up on Paragraph 3 of this Article, reference is made to the possibility that a proposal to recall a minister may also be submitted to the prime minister, while no other, especially an alternate, course of action by the president is specified.

In Article 111, Paragraph 4, it is not specified how the president should react to a proposal from the prime minister to recall a minister. It is impossible to conclude from this that he is not obliged to recall a minister based on a proposal from the prime minister. If the legislator had intended to stipulate that the president is not obliged to recall a minister based on a proposal from the prime minister in accordance with Paragraph 4, this would have to be stated explicitly in Article 116, Paragraph 4, of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

From the interpretation of the provisions contained in Articles 110 and 111 of the Constitution—in a broader logical, systemic, and historical context—it is apparent that the president of the Republic does not act independently and in accordance with his own reasoning when appointing and recalling the prime minister and his ministers. [passage omitted]

National Assembly Adopts New Defense Law

LD0712205493 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 2000 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] The National Assembly has adopted the new defense law, which will come into force in January. After three hours of voting, the deputies adopted the legislation, with one vote against and one abstention. According to the law, civilian service in the army will henceforth be for one and a half years, while those liable to the draft will have to do armed service for one year. The law also states that young people must be allowed to postpone service for family reasons. A person cannot be drafted if his sibling died in the course of military service.

Earlier, the parliament amended the constitution; accordingly, the government can take immediate measures without announcing a state of emergency if there is an unexpected armed external attack on the country.

Political Implications of Antall's Illness Noted

AU0812113993 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 6 Dec 93 p 7

[Unattributed article: "Antall Syndrome"]

[Text] Leading European newspapers are following the Antall syndrome with attention. They are praising our prime minister's activity and political values and, almost without exception, they mention the stability of the country and of the government as the most positive element in the long list of Antall's merits. The newspapers also analyze the political situation that has emerged in the wake of Prime Minister Jozsef Antall's illness, they discuss the possible developments, and they also speculate on the issue of Antall's successor. Our Western colleagues are doing their job, perhaps with less tension and embarrassment than we, in a way that is natural in those countries in such cases: in a cultured way, without harming the human good taste, but also relentlessly focusing on the essential. The way their readers are used to and also demand. Our Western colleagues have a keen eye in realizing the rather unilateral easing of the lastingly tense relations between Antall and the Hungarian press, something that originates from sympathy toward a man fighting a disease and a concern about the possibility that our prime minister might have to depart from political life too soon.

The conclusions of the Western press and of our domestic press are alike. Antall's lasting illness is a destabilizing factor in governing this country, and it opens up ways for the further spread of a Lezsak-type political activity and spirit within the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF], something that is pulling the party from Antall's right-center position to the right. There are obvious signs of such a pull: Sandor Lezsak is playing an increasingly central role in forming the policy and image of the MDF, a person who appears and speaks a lot in public, treats politics like a missionary work, regards political opponents as enemies, and considers a possible electoral defeat to be a national catastrophe. Executive Chairman Sandor Lezsak said in connection with the relations between the MDF and the radicals expelled from the MDF that they should maintain the "passage" between the MDF and Csurka's movement.

It is Jozsef Antall's unquestionable merit that he was trying to keep the right-wing radicals away from his government, and he did this quite successfully, although occasionally at the cost of serious compromises. Much depends now on [Interior Minister] Peter Boross's loyalty to Jozsef Antall, Peter Boross who is substituting for Jozsef Antall. And of course, much depends on Jozsef Antall's health condition, ability to make decisions, and will. People close to him claim that he does not intend to resign and, thus, substitution might be extended until the elections and the end of the government's mandate. Personnel combinations and the succession issue will only be timely if this scenario fails. The question now is whether Sandor Lezsak and his followers intend to extend that "passage" between the government and the right-wing radicals and, if so, what opposition they will encounter and what the origin of the two forces will be. And are the two forces really two forces? A clear government statement on the situation would have a calming effect, namely certainty that the government will not allow any political adventurism under any circumstances, and that it appreciates constitutional law more than the power. Uncertainty increases, rather than decreases, the speculations.

Jeszenszky on NATO Membership for E. Europe

AU0812080893 Budapest MTI in English 0758 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, 7 Dec (MTI)—In his lecture at London University on Monday [6 December] evening, Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky cited historical arguments to prove the urgency of NATO membership for East-Central European countries, and rejected the promise of a Western-Russian protective umbrella replacing it.

"We are aware that NATO membership is not a cure-all, but work inside the country needs outside security and a sure prospect of membership," Jeszenszky stated.

He said East-Central European countries' membership in NATO was aimed against nobody. On the contrary, it would also make Western borders more secure for Russia, promote closer links between Russia and NATO, and assist democratic forces in Russia, he said.

Jeszenszky arrived for a brief visit to London on Monday, at the invitation of his counterpart, Douglas Hurd.

Fur Holds Talks With Austrian Defense Minister

AU0812080193 Budapest MTI in English 1631 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, 7 Dec (MTI)—Bilateral cooperation and the European-integration process were the topics of discussions between the Austrian and Hungarian defence ministers, Werner Fasslabend and Lajos Fur, in Neusiedl Am-See on Tuesday [7 December].

The ministers agreed that closer ties with the Western-European Union (WEU) and NATO should be established gradually, and that a comprehensive plan is necessary for realizing integration within the next few years.

Hungary and Austria already cooperate extensively in military health care and training. A new field is UN peacekeeping operations, in which Austria has taken part for some time, while Hungary has joined only recently. This requires special training, and a training centre in Austria has already started operation. Hungary will soon begin similar training and hopes that Austria will join in its efforts.

In their regional security evaluation, the ministers discussed developments in Russia and Ukraine. They agreed that ties with these countries are very important to the region as is the countries' sovereignty. Fur was quick to point out that these states are important partners for Hungary.

At the talks, Fasslabend again withdrew the statement—that Austria is threatened by the danger of a Hungarian-Slovak conflict—which he made this summer and which observers found hasty and based on internal affairs considerations. Fasslabend now stressed he does not see any such danger.

Official Rejects Russian Opposition to NATO

LD0712203693 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1642 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Warsaw, 7 Dec—Jerzy Milewski, the first deputy minister of national defense and head of the National Security Office, said on 7 December that Poland rejects Russia's opposition against our country's joining NATO. [passage omitted]

"Russia's opposition against NATO's expansion to the east is not directed against Poland but against NATO member states. This is an isolated voice, the voice of a country that is not threatened," Milewski said. He added that "Russia's fears are groundless because our striving for NATO membership is not directed against Russia."

According to Milewski nonnuclear states should become NATO's new member states, and that is why it is difficult to imagine a situation that Russia become its member, alongside the United States. "Two nuclear umbrellas cannot be spread over one system. Russia should sign a cooperation treaty, containing a clause on security, with the whole North Atlantic Treaty," he stated. The first deputy minister of national defense also said that Poland "accepts" French and German proposals which suggest "another route to joining NATO", namely by obtaining WEU membership [West European Union] first, and U.S. proposals of "partnership for peace", but in this case Poland awaits more concrete suggestions.

According to Milewski, NATO itself has to conform to a new situation, it must decide whether it wants to exist further and change its aim and principles for its military activities, because the period of confrontation has already ended. "The North Atlantic Treaty should become a structure for the stabilization of the political arrangement and preventing local tensions, and it also should have possibilities for actions beyond the territories of its members," he said.

Andrzej Ananicz, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, who was present at the meeting, spoke about other strategic aims of Poland. They are: Economic and political integration with the west, consolidating the stabilization on the basis of agreements with neighbors and the Baltic states, as well as the Visegrad group and the Central European Initiative.

In his opinion "Poland has currently no feeling of being under a military threat, but there are other dangers." According to Ananicz these are the re-emergence of the bi-polar—strongly confrontational—arrangement, flourishing of regional conflicts with a nationalistic undercurrent and a possibility of their spread, as well as the failure of the institutional transformation in the post-Communist countries.

UD Chairman Favors Merger With KLD

AU0712172593 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 6 Dec 93 p 1

[Report by Igor Zalewski: "The UD Is Collapsing"]

[Text] Democratic Union [UD] Chairman Tadeusz Mazowiecki said at a meeting of the UD Council [on 4 December] that he favors a merger with the Liberal Democratic Congress [KLD] as soon as possible and proposed that a congress be convened for 27-28 February to discuss this issue.

The UD leader addressed three questions to his party—what kind of opposition should the UD be, can one transfer the UD's broad pluralistic philosophy to the future party, and whom the UD should accept as partners.

Mazowiecki himself, who prefers a tough opposition line, is opposed to a split of the UD and the creation of a new party.

The idea of a merger with the KLD did not arouse major objections, but some people—notably Wladyslaw Frasyniuk—objected to an excessively rapid merger progress. Frasyniuk said that Jan Maria Rokita was wrongfully playing a major role in the merger talks with the KLD and that the merger should take place from the grass roots upwards, not from the top. Frasyniuk and his followers said they thought the new party would inherit the KLD's considerable debts. They also objected to the possibility of too many "Christian Democrats" joining the new party and, thus, altering its countenance.

One politician from the UD's left wing said that secret talks were being held with the Business Center Club with a view to settling the KLD's debts. In return for this, Business Center Club leaders would occupy a few positions on the new party's board of management.

The UD Council accepted Mazowiecki's proposed date for the congress and also accepted the idea of forming a joint commission together with the KLD.

Developments in KLD, UD Leaderships Viewed

WS0712135093 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 7 Dec 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Krzysztof Olszewski and Marcin Dominik Zdort: "Battle of Bulldogs Under the Rug"]

[Text] The last political weekend did not bring any definite decisions on the side of the political scene that is called "pro-reform forces." The session of the Council of the Democratic Union [UD] confirmed earlier declarations that it wants to form a joint grouping with the liberals. The Second Congress of the Conservative Party [PK] also confirmed the earlier policy of this party: Building an independent grouping. On Saturday [4 December] and Sunday, however, there was a fight for influences in both parties.

The session of the UD Council ended in a formal confirmation of the decision on unification with the Liberal-Democratic Congress [KLD]. The issue, even though it was formally decided, may still more than once come up in discussions within UD. Most probably, however, UD, whose leaders had made the decision on unification with KLD earlier, will head for KLD, carried by the force of inertia, so characteristic of this party. "Nothing became clearer, nothing became more complicated as well. We merely made a very little step toward unification with KLD," remarks UD Secretary Ludwika Wujec.

The internal divisions within UD, even though they became very clear, at times even dramatic, did not lead to the crystallization of a clear political option, which was so impatiently awaited by some people. The position of Tadeusz Mazowiecki, UD "stapler," was maintained. Barbara Labuda, the one who had proposed that the chairman of the party be changed, was severely criticized. However, neither she nor Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, her closest ally, are going to leave the party.

"It is better that emotions became visible in public and not, as it has been so far, secretly here and there," says Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who believes that the events of the weekend will cleanse the party. "This heated discussion in front of journalists contained elements of a show," explains Ludwika Wujec.

"The result of the session of the UD Council was a source of personal satisfaction to me. I am glad that the position of Tadeusz Mazowiecki was consolidated," RZECZPOSPOLITA learned from Donald Tusk. The KLD leader discerns a fight within UD between the skeptics and the enthusiasts of uniting with KLD. "The enthusiasts have gotten the upper hand for the time being," claims Tusk. "However, our honeymoon will be difficult," adds the KLD leader.

The liberals will agree that the Bielecki plan, proposing a concrete schedule for unification (a joint congress would be held on 1 March 1994), be corrected.

According to the KLD leader, "the Bielecki plan was supposed to make this process more dynamic; we, however, are prepared to reach a compromise." Such a compromise will be needed because even the moderate Tadeusz Mazowiecki, at a UD session, backed the stance taken by the leftist faction; he said that the proposal of the liberals that the talks between the two parties should be held with the participation of nonpartisan intellectuals (such as Marcin Krol and Artur Medzyrzecki), or businessmen and people active in the economic field (such as Leszek Balcerowicz), was not very good. Some people say that the liberals proposed that a "third leg" take part in the unification talks in order to

Strengthen Their Position

UD was not enthusiastic about this proposal; there were even opinions that "KLD will dominate UD." These opinions were expressed not only by persons closely related to Frasyniuk. Donald Tusk, however, denies these speculations: "We are not looking at the issue from the point of view of 'if we do not dominate them, they will dominate us.'"

The liberals were more eager than UD to propose openness to "other, pro-reform elements of the political scene." In this context PK was mentioned most often. However, now that the supporters of maintaining the conservative identity of the party have won, it does not seem likely that this option can be implemented. "I am sad that the elections to the Chief Council of this party brought defeat to politicians known for their pro- congress sympathies, such as Michal Chalonski or Piotr Fogler," says Donald Tusk.

"Recent days have not brought any new political elements in the case of PK, even though they confirmed the party's desire to cooperate with the Union for Real Politics [UPR], the Party of Christian Democrats [PChD], and the Christian-Peasant Party [SLCh]; they also confirmed that

The Road to the Coalition With UD and KLD Had Been Closed

says Kazimierz Michal Ujazdowski, confirming Tusk's fears.

Some conservatists of Aleksander Hall's grouping waited for a split in UD. The Sunday congress of PK, in a situation where nothing indicated that there would be a split in UD, had to try to define further plans of Hall's party as an independent political formation, cooperating with UPR, PChD, and SLCh.

Thus, also in PK the policy pursued so far was confirmed, even though, as one of the delegates put it, in reality, during the congress "a fight of bulldogs under the rug" was going on.

All the candidates to the leadership declared similar views, trying to skip tactical differences; however, the supporters of Hall's moderate policy—those who were against broad cooperation with the right wing, were defeated.

Borowski Outlines Terms for London Club Talks

WS0712113793 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 7 Dec 93 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Finance Minister Marek Borowski by "Z.K."; place and date not given: "Agreement Important for Both Sides; Talks With London Club"]

[Text] **A few days before a meeting of commercial banks in London, Dresdner Bank Chairman Juergen Sarrazin said that a 50-percent reduction of Poland's foreign debt "is out of the question." He also expressed hope that the position taken by the banks will be understood by the Polish side. At the same time, Dresdner Bank's Bernhard Walter (who is in charge of negotiations with Poland) emphasized that any solution to the problem of Poland's**

foreign debt will have to be based on the state of the Polish economy. We asked Finance Minister Marek Borowski (who is also a deputy prime minister) to comment on the statements made by the chiefs of Dresdner Bank, which has been heading the Polish working group at the London Club since August.

[Borowski] During the recent years of negotiations aimed at settling our relations with various commercial banks, we have only been hearing what Poland will not receive. We would prefer to have Dresdner Bank tell us what terms we have to meet so as to make an agreement possible. We accepted the change in the post of chairman of the Polish working group in the London Club, and also the choice of Dresdner Bank, as a sign of much more vigorous efforts to arrive at an agreement and to solve our foreign debt problem. But we have been waiting for five months now for the banks to come up with a new proposal which could be the basis for a speedy conclusion of our mutual talks. But, instead of a realistic proposal like that, what we hear are outright statements made in advance of what we will not receive.

[Z.K.] What are the limits to concessions the Polish government is willing to accept?

[Borowski] General terms of a future agreement with the commercial banks were defined in May of this year. Let me remind you that at the time, we agreed with the banks on three fundamental principles. First, the agreement must be complete in its scope and cover all parts of the debt, including the process of evaluating the level of debt reduction. Second, the agreement must take into account Poland's short-term and long-term payment capabilities. Third, it must also take into account Poland's other contract obligations which it took upon itself. We are currently conducting some intensive work on the 1994 budget, and we are also holding preliminary debates on an economic program for the 1994-1997 period. Based on these debates, one can see that the country's capabilities for making major debt repayments to the commercial banks before 1997, are rather limited. As for after 1997, we have absolutely no intention of giving up on meeting our ever-increasing obligations toward other creditor groups, just to increase our repayments to the London Club.

[Z.K.] But Dresdner Bank Chairman Sarrazin stressed recently that the agreement is in the mutual interests of both Poland and the commercial banks....

[Borowski] I fully share that view. It is worth recalling that in 1991, Poland offered to repay the bank debts in yearly installments of $500 million. By rejecting all negotiations, the banks practically gave up on the repayments, which would have amounted to $1.5 billion by now. Poland is also at a loss in a situation of not having the agreement because its access to cheaper commercial credits was cut off. Plus, the banks are not only not receiving any repayments, but they also cannot fully avail themselves of the gradual trade and investment revival between Poland and the rest of Europe.

[Box, p 7]

Poland's Debt to London Club
Total—$12.3 billion
Long- and Medium-Term Debt—$8.3 billion
Interest in Arrears—$2.8 billion
Revolving Contracts—$1.2 billion

Poll Shows Citizens Approve of Parliament's Work

WS0812115893 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 8 Dec 93 p 2

[Report by E.O.: "A Score for the Second Sejm"]

[Text] After only two months' work, the newly elected Sejm, which has so often been accused by rightist politicians of not being fully representative, enjoys great trust among the people. The majority of the respondents of the Public Opinion Research Center [CBOS] expressed the conviction that, in comparison with the previous Sejm, the new parliament will work more smoothly and efficiently; it will also better represent the interests of the people and will make wiser decisions.

The sittings of the second Sejm look entirely different from the sittings of the previous parliament. Procedural controversies and lengthy quarrels over the agenda of the sessions, which were so frequent in the first Sejm, can now be observed only sporadically. The Sejm may be less colorful (more boring, as some people will say), but it certainly works fast and efficiently.

The previous Sejm often adopted incoherent laws which had to be amended right away. This was caused by the fact that the government coalition had only a slight majority in the parliament and amendments were often passed only with one vote, to the surprise of everyone (including the authors of the amendments). The previous Sejm could actually give up voting entirely—this is what the work done so far has suggested. The coalition of the ruling parties is implementing anything it likes in the parliament, without having to count the votes several times and wait nervously for the results of the ballots. It is no wonder, therefore, that the opinion on the work of the Sejm is positive.

A large majority of the people—82 percent—believe that the Sejm is really needed (only 10 percent of the respondents believe that Poland could do without it).

CBOS respondents also believe that the Sejm should be able to exert great influence on the activities of the government (60 percent of the respondents) and on the activities of the Supreme Chamber of Control (50 percent). Less than half of the people (44 percent) expressed the opinion that the Sejm should have influence on the work of the president. The people, however, do not think that the Sejm should control public television (65 percent of the respondents), the Army (53 percent), voivodes (48 percent), and police (48 percent).

Thirty eight percent of the respondents believe that the Sejm represents the interests of the entire society; 30 percent—that only the interests of some social groups are represented in the parliament; only 19 percent are of the opinion that most of the people are now not represented in the Sejm (13 percent of the respondents do not have any view on it). Only 7 percent of the respondents think that there are no deputies in the Sejm who would share their views.

Slightly surprising was the statement of two-thirds of the people that the present Sejm will control the government more efficiently. As it is known, it is the opposition that fulfills the role of the controller of the government in the parliament; the opposition, however, has so far been totally helpless.

The research was carried out between 10 and 15 November in a representative group of 1,226 persons.

Politicians View Idea of Social Agreement

WS0812110093 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 8 Dec 93 p 2

[Article by Piotr Adamowicz and Pawel Reszka: "They Do Not Want To Speak With the Government"]

[Text] There are not many people in the opposition who would like to speak about a social agreement with the government. Prior to any negotiations, "Solidarity" ["S"] will submit hard preliminary conditions; however, Marian Krzaklewski has already said that a social agreement is a way of deceiving people. Opposition parties are also rather reserved—they do not want to take any responsibility for the activities of the leftist government. Thus, the future of the agreement does not look bright, all the more so because, according to many politicians, if any of the major social forces (such as "S") were to be excluded from such an agreement, it would no longer make any sense to conclude it.

Everyone or No One

So far no one, except the All-Polish Trades Union Agreement [OPZZ], has responded enthusiastically to the prime minister's proposal that a social agreement be made.

Waldemar Pawlak proposed that such an agreement be concluded with trade unions. Its main principles were supposed to be ready by the end of the year. After this declaration, the government fell silent. OPZZ leaders became rather impatient. Then they themselves presented the problems that they thought should be included in the agreement. They decided that it should be signed before the Sejm adopts the budget law, that is, by the end of March 1994. OPZZ leaders' desire was that the agreement be negotiated not only by employers and trade unions, but also by representatives of the political opposition, including the one that has found itself outside the parliament.

"Solidarity" Presents Conditions

"S" unionists say that they can discuss a social agreement; however, they also doubt whether such a discussion will yield positive results.

"A proposal of a long-term social agreement is now an outdated political trick. Why deceive people? We have had three such agreements. Only some of the agreements reached in August 1980 and at the "round table" were implemented. At that time the political system was quite different, and it was a raison d'etre for such social agreements. Now, in a democracy they are not needed," says "S" Chairman Marian Krzaklewski.

According to him, it is nonsensical to conclude social pacts that are supposed to be binding for several years, because "there is no such norm in the Constitutional Law." In most Western countries, trade unions, employers, and the government reach agreements for a year, because this is the period when budget and tax laws are in effect. They are amended every year.

"In Poland, also before the state budget law is announced, the above-mentioned parties should reach a consensus on the distribution of the budget money," says Krzaklewski.

According to him, by submitting the proposal of a social agreement, the present government wants to delay (or simply abandon the idea entirely) the implementation of the agreements signed by "S" with the previous governments, such as those concerning compensations for increasing maintenance costs or the distribution of the growth of the gross domestic product. In order to hold any talks, "S" wants the government to issue clear declarations that it will implement collective agreements; the Trilateral Commission must start work; the issue of the representativeness of the unions must be resolved; the social security net and the agreements of the "Pact on Enterprise" must be implemented.

Democratic Union [UD]: We Do Not Trust the Coalition

For Henryk Wujec of UD, the idea of inviting the oppositional parties to conclude a social agreement comes from a different epoch.

"This is something like the 'round table.' An agreement that is made when democratic instruments are not working."

However, UD does not disapprove of the idea of social agreements made by the government, trade unions, and employers.

"We ourselves came up with the idea of such an agreement, that is, the "Pact on Enterprise." It is worth recalling that OPZZ and the Democratic Left Alliance broke off this agreement. "If one wants to conclude new agreements, one must observe the old ones. The way the coalition behaved does not awaken any trust," adds Wujec.

The Labor Union [UP]: Presence of the Most Important Ones Is Necessary

UP is an ardent supporter of the idea of a social agreement. According to Chairman Ryszard Bugaj, the main partners in such an agreement would be the government, OPZZ, and the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union "S."

If any of them were to be missing, the entire agreement would not make any sense.

"I do not think, however, that political antipathies could determine whether or not one wants to join the negotiations," says Bugaj.

Such a pact would also require a political agreement, in which also the extra-parliamentary opposition would participate (according to Bugaj, the limit for the participants could be the support of at least 500,000 voters).

Confederation for an Independent Poland [KPN]: Sheer Propaganda

KPN leader Krzysztof Krol emphasizes that the Polish Peasant Party and the Democratic Left Alliance have a government and a majority in the parliament.

"If the prime minister cannot cope with the problem of governing, then he should resign. According to KPN, the idea of a social agreement is mere propaganda," says Krol.

Niesiolowski and Hall Are Reluctant

"I do not think there is any use negotiating with Mr. Miller, Mr. Borowski, Mr. Pawlak, or Mr. Strak. They should carry out their election promises first," says Stefan Niesiolowski of the Christian-National Union.

Aleksander Hall, leader of the conservatives, called the idea ludicrous.

CDR To Call Censure Motion Against Government

AU0712184493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1406 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 7/12/1993—The Executive Committee of the Democratic Convention of Romania [CDR] decided Tuesday, December 7, to call a censure motion asking for the change of the current government.

Deputy Adrian Severin attended the three-hour meeting of the CDR Executive Committee on behalf of the leadership of the Democratic Party.

CDR Chairman Emil Constantinescu announced at the close of the meeting that the text of the motion and a communique would be made public.

Constantinescu Cites Reasons

AU0712184693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1616 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 7/12/1993—A press release issued by the Democratic Convention of Romania (CDR) and signed by its president, Emil Constantinescu, informs that "CDR's Executive Committee convened in an extraordinary meeting Tuesday, 7 December, attended by the leaders of all the constituent parties, and by representatives of the Democratic Party (PD-FSN), as guests.

"The executive committee examined the grave social and political situation of Romania, which has generated ample discontent and mass protests.

"In order to stop Romania's decline to a national disaster, CDR resolved to forward Today, 7 December, a censure motion in both chambers of the Romanian Parliament."

On the occasion, CDR President Emil Constantinescu stated:

"The opposition to the present government is a fact among the large mass of the country's citizens. CDR parliamentarians who represent them have the duty to use the democratic means provided to them by parliamentary regulations in order to express their viewpoints and to demand the government to assume responsibility for its inactivity and for the wrong decisions it has made in administering the power it has been invested with."

The document issued by CDR, sent to ROMPRES, reads that "one year after the installation of the Vacaroiu government, the promised reform has not started. There is no political will for economic recovery. The results of the present governing are anarchy, unprecedented corruption, and uncertainty for tomorrow."

Senators and deputies, signatories of the motion, believe that inflation has run out of control, which has triggered "deeper and deeper impoverishment of all segments of life. Economic growth is an illusion as long as the government continues to unreasonably subsidize loss-making units." The executive is accused of "lack of political will as regards the convertibility of the national currency, which has led to the currency's collapse, and that the government's budgetary policy has blocked administrative decentralization." Those who signed the motion are of the opinion that "the population has lost hope for economic recovery," and "the crisis for which the present government is responsible has made the European integration more difficult."

Noting the "total failure of the government's economic policy and its lack of credibility, the motion's signatories ask parliamentarians to join them and express distrust in the current government by vote, opening the way for negotiations for a new government formula with a reforming and democratic program, based on the political will of ending the crisis."

PDSR's Gherman Views Parliament 'Carousel'

AU0712184893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1635 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 7/12/1993—Oliviu Gherman, chairman of the ruling Social Democracy Party of Romania [PDSR], claimed Tuesday, 7 December, at a press conference, that the motion proposed by the Socialist Party of Labor (PSM) "is the voicing of the position taken by a parliamentary party and a form of expression chosen by a party belonging to the ruling coalition," which does not question the continuity of Mr. Vacaroiu's cabinet. It proposes a package of supplementary measures, which might be included in the program of this very executive."

Speaking of what he called "the hypothetical censure motion of the opposition," and of "the sure motion against Securitate informers," laid this morning, PDSR Chairman Oliviu Gherman labelled the week running as the "carousel of motions," likely to halt for a while the activity of the law-making body.

PDSR Leader Sees 'Contradiction' in Motion

AU0712190093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1749 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 7/12/1993—Ioan Manzatu, vice chairman of the ruling Social Democracy Party of Romania [PDSR] defined the no-confidence vote laid in parliament today by the opposition as a "contradiction between the opposition's wish for the decentralization of the economy and its demand that Mr. Vacaroiu's cabinet come up with an anti-crisis program, which would require further dirigism [central state control] in the economy."

Ioan Manzatu accused the opposition of seeking "to make a fuss" rather than solve the problems this country is facing. "We have always considered that, beyond any differences in doctrines or political interests, the parties

chosen by the electorate to represent its interests in parliament should conclude a social pact among themselves, but also with employers and trade unions, valid for any government supposed to rule from now on, irrespective of its political color," Manzatu said.

Roman Calls For 'New Union' To Solve Crisis

AU0712101993 Bucharest AZI in Romanian 1 Dec 93 p 4

[Speech by Petre Roman, president of the Democratic Party (National Salvation Front), at the solemn session of the Romanian Parliament, in Bucharest on 30 December: "We Have Strong Reasons for a New Union"]

[Excerpts] The life of the Romanian nation has been enriched forever by the unequalled beauty of the Great Union of 1 December 1918. [passage omitted] Our national ideal, fulfilled on 1 December 1918, was just one thing, namely the reunification. The hope that has accompanied this ideal and given our people boundless energy and strength was the hope for a better life, the hope for the achievement of the basic human needs. [passage omitted] This hope, inherently enmeshed in the national ideal, has cemented the solidarity of the whole people, who thus won the great victory of the unification of the Romanian state within its natural boundaries.

There is no doubt that today's Romania is a state incomparably better placed on the common foundation of the modern world, a world of freedom and peace, than was the case 75 years ago. We owe this to other great sacrifices and victories of our people. [passage omitted] Thanks to the Romanian revolution of December 1989, we regained the rights of man and nation to fulfill their oldest and tireless desires: man's desire for uninhibited dignity and the nation's desire for unrestrained respect.

We are part of the great European and Euro-Atlantic construction at this turn of century. The democratic world has changed at a pace that we could only see from afar, without being able to keep up with it. The accumulation of serious lags does not cease to fully hurt us even now. Therefore, we are dutybound to devise and strive for our national reconstruction, with all our might and wits. We know that we are in a very worrisome situation as far as the material situation of the majority of the people is concerned. One cannot conceive of speedily taking the Romanian society out of its crisis, continuing and strengthening the democratization process, and implementing the compulsory transition to a modern economy without national cohesion. Differences in devising and implementing a policy of economic and social recovery are quite necessary, since they are part of our spiritual wealth, national genius, and democratic essence. Conflicts, on the other hand, should have no place in our national recovery effort.

The national pact proposed a few days ago by the conference of the almost 4,000 mayors and councillors of the Democratic Party (National Salvation Front) [PD(FSN)] expresses a concrete desire for an efficient and stable government. At the anniversary of the union of all citizens of the Romanian fatherland, the PD(FSN) believes that we have strong reasons for a new union, this time in order to come out of the current state of affairs: To come out of poverty, injustice, of the desire to cling to power, and of the past, since the future is different.

It is necessary to work out a truly democratic reform program, with practical measures to halt the deterioration of the overall living standard and speed up the transition to the market economy, through wisely thought out steps. However, what counts above everything else is the feeling of our responsibility, as elected people and citizens, toward the humiliating material and moral situation of many millions of Romanians. Liberty, social justice, and solidarity are and remain the values that we are defending.

In order to help our society's efforts to achieve a decent living standard for the majority of the population and ensure protection for everybody, we must prove that work can and must be put to good use and that its value lies both in its efficiency and motivation. In the last instance, democracy means a policy devoted to people earning an honest living through work. Democracy is being built with these people, who are many and without whom democracy is no longer a cause worth fighting for.

Economic growth, the relaunching of investments, and the creation of proper jobs are incontestable priorities. Without proper jobs, there can be no hope or trust.

In 1918, history knocked on the door of the Romanians and found them prepared to take their fate into their own hands. The year 1993 finds us facing a challenge of modern history. Romania cannot be a country of great natural riches and human talent, on the one hand, and not be able to utilize this potential through the means available to a modern society.

Therefore, let us build and consolidate a modern Romania. Modern Romania is the great work of the citizens of today's Romania.

PNL Body Calls For Campeanu's Dismissal

AU0712193493 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] During today's news conference, National Liberal Party [PNL] President Mircea Ionescu Quintus read a declaration in which the decision of the PNL Central Standing Bureau was announced—namely, that Mr. Radu Campeanu should be removed from all party functions. The declaration notes the following reasons for this decision: the activity of disunity led by Mr. Radu Campeanu in the PNL, the very serious violation of the spirit of the party statute and the liberal tradition, and his repeated attempts to turn the PNL into a personal party, subordinated to those currently in power.

The declaration read by Mr. Quintus reaffirms the fact that the PNL is and will continue to be a center-right-wing, moderate, modern, and realistic party that is faithful to liberal concepts.

Likewise, it was announced that the PNL Permanent Delegation is convened for 17 December 1993.

Our correspondent also informed us that the journalists present at this news conference were shown a declaration signed by 60 PNL members, in which it is stated that the current Central Standing Bureau of the party does not represent the party because it is based on the results of incorrect opinion polls.

The current PNL president is duty bound to submit his resignation in order to speed up the actions aimed at finding solutions to the crisis, notes the document.

The participants in the news conference observed a minute of silence in the memory of the great liberal politician Nicu Enescu, former vice president of the party.

PSM Senator Wants Yugoslavia Embargo Lifted

AU0712152693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1148 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 7/12/1993—The Vice-President of the Socialist Party of Labor [PSM], Senator Adrian Paunescu launched an appeal at the Senate meeting on Monday [6 December] for the lifting of the embargo against Yugoslavia over December 1993-January 1994, on the occasion of the Christmas and New Year's Eve holidays.

"I pledge the suspension of the embargo against the peoples of Yugoslavia, especially against Serbia, albeit for the December-January period. The children of our good brothers from South-West have absolutely no guilt for the world policies and for their country's policy. The Serb people cannot be prosecuted at the bar of history.

"Leaving aside all these analyses for the coming year, we, the Romanian socialists propose now, in this month of December 1993, to the Romanian authorities and to the world bodies a suspension, even temporary, of the embargo. The Serbian people needs friends and solutions to recover from the catastrophe. The school rooms of the best neighbors of ours are frozen in this hard winter. There is no place for well-doing in Yugoslavia. Far from solving the problems, the embargo makes them more complicated and blunt. The embargo turns into a genocide," PSM Senator Paunescu said.

Vacaroiu, Officials Meet IMF Representatives

AU0812075793 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1327 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 7/12/1993—Romania and the International Monetary Fund will sign the documents on Thursday, December 9, in Bucharest, informed the governor of the National Bank of Romania, Mugur Isarescu, at the end of the last round of discussions on Tuesday between Romania's Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and IMF officials Maxwell Watson, Goddard Posthumus and Joshua Green [names as received]. The talks were attended also by Romanian Ministers of State Dan Mircea Popescu and Florin Georgescu.

Reform Acceleration Discussed

AU0612195593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1805 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 6/12/1993—Romania's President Ion Iliescu received Monday, December 6, at Cotroceni Palace, Goddard Posthumus [name as received], executive director of the International Monetary Fund representing the group of countries Romania is part of.

On the occasion of this protocol interview, Posthumus conveyed a message to President Iliescu from Michel Camdessus, IMF director general.

The main directions were tackled of the cooperation between this international financial body and Romania.

Posthumus stressed during the interview that the reform, privatization included, had to be speeded up in Romania. He said that the IMF was saluting fiscal austerity measures as instruments capable to lower inflation.

Attending were Mugur Isarescu, governor of Romania's National Bank, Florin Georgescu, minister of finance, and Cornel Codita, presidential counselor.

Successful Negotiations Reported

AU0812080293 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1659 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 7/12/1993—Romanian Premier Nicolae Vacaroiu, Ministers of State Florin Georgescu [finance minister] and Mircea Dan Popescu [labor and social protection minister], and Romania's National Bank Governor Mugur Isarescu received on December 7 in Bucharest a mission of the International Monetary Fund [IMF], currently in Romania, headed by IMF Executive Director Goddard Posthumus [name and title as received], to clarify a number of details regarding the final form of the letter of intention and the memorandum on the basis of which a stand-by agreement will be concluded between Romania and the IMF.

Maxwell Watson, head of the IMF team negotiating with Romania, said that the latest talks regarding technicalities have run very well and that both parties have carefully examined all the details, so that the texts of the documents are going to be finalized on soon. The parties have agreed on the present form of the letter of intention and the memorandum. The complex negotiations that

have called for the adoption of a number of measures in 1993 having made the reform in Romania credible, look successful.

The premier was glad to notice that the IMF experts had understood the government's concern over welfare, and specified that the executive would be keen on the assistance of underprivileged social categories, that are the most vulnerable. The IMF experts are going to remain for a while in Romania to back the Romanian side in putting to work a complex welfare program.

The guests unanimously agreed with the government's stance as regards a firm monetary policy aimed to curb inflation. The government's resolute option for economic reform and privatization was underlined, which will result in better living standard.

Vacaroiu explained that the allegations on a tensed relation between the Vacaroiu government and Romania's National Bank were not true, that on the contrary, the two had cooperated and would continue to cooperate on a permanent basis in order to enforce the set of measures agreed on with the IMF, with an aim to rapidly stabilize the macro-economic level.

The IMF mission will continue its contacts with political and social circles on Wednesday, December 8. The letter of intention will be signed on Thursday, December 9.

Article Views Oct Economic Figures

AU0712102093 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 1 Dec 93 p 5

[Ion Marcovici report: "The October Statistical Figures"]

[Text] In October, Romanian industry and agriculture, together with other "allied" economic branches made new steps toward "new peaks of success and exceptional results in labor" [reference to speeches of Nicolae Ceausescu]. The rightness of Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu's theses has been proved once more, as he, as early as last summer, while sitting in his office at Victoria Palace [government headquarters], had predicted that the economic decline would stop and all performance figures would begin to increase.

Let us quote a few excerpts from the monthly report elaborated by the National Statistical Commission:

The volume of industrial production has increased by 0.5 percent compared to the previous month; if one also takes into consideration the difference between the number of working days in the two months, the growth amounts to 3.2 percent.

Compared to the same month last year, industrial production has increased by 7.4 percent and, respectively, by 11.9 percent, while on the whole, the volume of industrial production over the first 10 months of this year merely grew slightly compared to the same period last year.

In agriculture, this year's production of maize has been estimated at over 7 million tonnes, which is more than the production obtained last year.

Livestock has increased in the case of all major species of animals.

The quantity of wheat and rye sold to the state over the first 10 months of this year exceeded last year's amount by 43.5 percent.

Overall exports have dropped by 22.7 percent compared to the previous month, but grew by 22.4 percent compared to October 1992. Imports have dropped by 15.8 percent and grew, respectively, by 1.6 percent.

Salaries have rose by 6.7 percent compared to the previous month and by 231.7 percent compared to the stand in October 1992.

However, the situation as seen from Victoria Palace and certified by the stamps of the statistical office has nothing, but really, absolutely nothing in common with the image of life and its blessings as seen by the man in the street. Our whole industrial system is facing economic blockage, our laws do not guarantee property, and our external debts have begun to increase at an exponential rate. We will deal with all our "statistical successes" that are in striking contrast with the reality of life in following issues of our daily.

Agriculture Ministry Data on Privatization

AU0812080793 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0944 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 7/12/1993—Agriculture currently has the highest grade of privatization, with plant and animal production being mainly achieved in the private sector, show data issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

It is shown that over 80 per cent of the cultivated areas and head of animal are private property, while most of the farming equipment is state property. The private sector in agriculture holds 70.3 per cent of the farm area, 80 per cent of the arable land, 73 per cent of the vineyards, 66.8 per cent of the orchards, 52 per cent of the wild hayfields, 85.6 of the horned cattle, 89.8 per cent of the sheep, 59.6 per cent of the pigs, 58.9 per cent of the poultry.

As concerns the privatization through sale of stock, as many as 31 commercial companies have been set up so far, including 10 in food industry, 4 subordinated to the department of national corporations and stock-holding commercial companies, 10 in technical-material supply, one in vegetable and fruit marketing, two in land improvement and four in mechanization. Also, 1,790 assets were leased and 706 put out for auction, of which 227 actually sold.

As many as 258 commercial companies are in advanced stages of preparation for privatization. The four experimental teaching stations were transferred to farm higher learning institutes.

Silajdzic Denies Intent To Create Muslim State

AU0812115493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Report by Nada al-Isa from Zagreb]

[Text] Last night Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic participated by telephone in a program on the Croatian Television [HTV], in which the representatives of the [Croatian] government and opposition discussed, or rather argued about the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Prime Minister Silajdzic explained straight away that he had neither the time nor the energy for this, as he was on the line from Sarajevo over which, as he said, planes and helicopters were again flying. The UN resolution on the no-fly zone had been violated 1,100 times, the prime minister said. That is why the question from the HTV studio as to who was attacking Sarajevo sounded almost inane. I did not think I would have to explain even that, the prime minister said.

Asked whether a Muslim state would be created in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. Silajdzic responded with a counter-question: Will a Catholic state be created in Croatia? He added: We are trying to survive now, and what nationality and religion people are is their private business. The enemies of Bosnia-Herzegovina, including those in Croatia, Silajdzic said, are trying to present the fact that the Muslims are in the majority in Bosnia as some kind of a Muslim danger. However, Europe is not threatened by Muslim fundamentalism, but by a (?biological) one, that is, by fascism.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina Government wants everything to end as soon as possible in a peaceful way, he said, adding: Anyway, how could it insist on war when it has neither planes nor tanks?

Who wants war and who peace—this was the issue over which last night the representatives of the Croatian Government and the opposition argued bitterly, as we have said.

What is the position of the Croats in Bosnia? Who will get access to the sea? The representatives of the [Croatian] government argued that Croatia has always been in favor of a Bosnia in which the Croats would live well, too. If they could live there well, why did you insist on creating a national state for them at any price, and so on breaking up Bosnia? This was the question posed by [Croatian Social Liberal Party chairman] Drazen Budisa. Who will get access to the sea, the Croats or the Muslims? Neither of the two, Drazen Budisa said. The Bosnian republic will get it. This is how he explained it: The Croatian part of Bosnia- Herzegovina wants to join Croatia, and the Serbian part wants to join Serbia. If that happens, the Bosnian republic will become the legal heir to the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and everything that Bosnia-Herzegovina has, including access to the sea. It was necessary to preserve the entire Bosnia-Herzegovina, and there would not have been any problem with access of the sea, Budisa said.

Drago Stipac, chairman of the Croatian Peasants' Party, agreed with that, and said that the only good thing about the Croatian policy toward Bosnia-Herzegovina was its recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina, while everything else was [word indistinct].

This is Nada al-Isa reporting for Radio Television Bosnia-Herzegovina from Zagreb.

Silajdzic Comments on Talks With Krajisnik

AU0712185693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and a representative of the Serbian aggressor side, Momcilo Krajisnik, held a meeting at Sarajevo airport today. After the meeting, Prime Minister Silajdzic made the following statement for Bosnia-Herzegovina Radio:

[Begin Silajdzic recording] First of all, the bulk of the time was devoted to humanitarian issues. We tried to improve the life of people under the present conditions, and we know what they are like. We also discussed territorial issues with regard to the Geneva talks. What is certain is that there are difficulties. Regarding territorial issues, the talks were strenuous.

We also spoke about the shelling of Sarajevo in the last few days, while the talks were being held. We handed them a sharp protest for hitting civilians targets, or to be more precise, for targeting civilians in Sarajevo while we were trying to achieve something through the negotiations. [end recording]

Krajisnik on 'Cautious Optimism'

LD0712220693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2051 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Pale, 7 Dec (TANJUG)—Momcilo Krajisnik, president of the people's assembly of the republic of Srpska, told a TANJUG correspondent this evening that after today's talks with Muslim Premier Haris Silajdzic at Sarajevo airport "there are grounds for cautious optimism," because some things which were discussed today have been extricated from a "deadlock situation."

Krajisnik specified that there was discussion of territorial divisions, especially in Sarajevo, as well as of a Muslim and also a Serbian outlet to the sea "and some other Muslim territorial demands."

"As regards Sarajevo, we want two towns to be formed on its territory—a Serbian town and a Muslim town. Today we discussed how these two towns could function. We are a long way from a solution because there are a good many problems, primarily in connection with the linking of Muslim Sarajevo to the other Muslim part of Bosnia. In this respect, today we disposed of some public

statements made by the Muslim side concerning the alleged conceding of Ilijas and Vogosca to the Muslims," Krajisnik said.

He stressed that "the Serbs cannot offer up Ilijas and Vogosca, nor was this on the agenda in Geneva."

The president of the people's assembly of the republic of Srpska said the Muslim delegation today accused the Serbs of shelling Sarajevo.

On this occasion Krajisnik stressed that prior to his departure for talks with Silajdzic, he obtained assurances from the army of the republic of Srpska that the Serbs had not shelled the city. He added that, despite this, the Serbian side would check out these allegations because, he said, "we would not like to see the no-attack and peace agreements which we have reached to be endangered."

Krajisnik stated that he drew Silajdzic's attention to the fact that Serbian positions in Sarajevo's Serbian suburbs of Grbavica, Vogosca, Rajlovac, and Ilidza had been shelled, something the Muslim premier was unaware of; "so Silajdzic too will verify whether such attacks took place."

The president of the assembly of the republic of Srpska said that he also had talks with Silajdzic about some humanitarian problems—the possibility of the evacuation of endangered citizens from Sarajevo and other towns in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina which are under Muslim control.

There was also discussion on enabling all those who are under threat and who cannot withstand this winter to be evacuated from these towns in the coming period. No concrete agreement was reached on this today, however, Krajisnik said.

The Krajisnik-Silajdzic talks will be resumed at Sarajevo airport tomorrow.

Army Reported 'Crushed' in Inter-Muslim Battle

LD0712142093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1325 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Petrovac, 7 Dec (TANJUG)—Fierce inter-Muslim clashes in the Cazin region are continuing today along all lines of separation, the warring sides' media reported.

The Western Bosnian [news] agency ZBIA and Velkaton Radio in Velika Kladusa report that 5th Corps of the so-called army of Bosnia-Herzegovina attempted a breakthrough toward Velika Kladusa.

The fiercest fighting took place in the southern and eastern sections of the front, and especially in the areas of Sturlic and Rastele. Members of the army of the autonomous province of western Bosnia successfully repelled attacks and forced Alija Izetbegovic's supporters to withdraw.

Atif Dudakovic's [commander of the Bosnian Army's 5th Corps] units were totally crushed in today's fighting, and most fighters joined Fikret Abdic's supporters, ZBIA and Velkaton Radio claim.

According to announcements on Bihac radio, loyal to Izetbegovic, there are dead and wounded on both sides, but no figures have been released. The same radio says that about 20 fighters of the autonomous province of western Bosnia were captured. However, the ZBIA agency denies this report.

Abdic Forces Shell Sturlic

LD0712205093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] The zone of responsibility of the 5th Corps today, too, saw attacks by members of Fikret Abdic's paramilitary formations, especially in the Sturlic region.

The rebels have been firing at everything that moves and are also using artillery—at infrequent intervals, it is true. Two children were killed by mortars in this way.

Remnants of rebel groups are in a hopeless situation in view of the fact that they cannot disengage themselves and withdraw across the territory of the so-called republic of Srpska, whence they set out against their own people. On the other side, special groups of Abdic's police, who are paid for this work, are preventing these groups from surrendering or going over to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina Army. It is time for their cruel masters to realize that they are killing their own people, the press center of the 5th Corps reported.

Serbs Report 'Major' Muslim Attacks on Sarajevo

LD0712201193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1853 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Pale, 7 Dec (TANJUG)—Major Muslim attacks on Serbian defense lines were launched on the Sarajevo battefield again today.

According to the information center of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps, Muslims launched a strong artillery attack on the Serbian district of Grbavica at around 1400. On this occasion 20 mortar shells were fired, causing considerable damage to residential buildings. Fortunately no casualties have been registered.

Muslim units launched a fierce artillery attack in the Zuc area on the Vogosca part of the front, targeting Serbian defense lines. [passage omitted]

Serbian military sources have contradicted UN Protection Force Spokesman Bill Aikman, who said today that the Muslim forces had made a slight advance in the Serbian districts of Grbavica and Dobrinja.

According to Serbian military sources, Muslim forces attempted to break through the Serbian defense lines in these parts of Sarajevo but the Serbs successfully repelled

all the attacks. According to the same source, Serbian defense lines in Sarajevo are firm and stable.

Muslims Launch Attacks in Zepce Area

LD0712182093 Mostar Croatian Radio Herzeg-Bosna in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The Muslim army has attempted to break through the defense lines in the southern part of the Zepce battlefield. The Muslims launched strong mortar attacks from Blagojevica Brdo and Bukovik and used antiaircraft guns and infantry weapons throughout the day. This morning the Muslims launched an attack from the directions of Maglaj and Tesanj, trying to recapture positions in the Osvanska Bandera area. Their aim was to regain control of the only road between Maglaj and Tesanj, currently held by the Croatian Defense Council [HVO]. All enemy attacks were repelled.

According to the HVO military hospital, two members of the 111th [HVO] Brigade died today after being lightly wounded yesterday. It was later determined that they had been hit by toxic bullets. [passage omitted]

Muslims Report Croatian Shelling of Gornji Vakuf

LD0712224493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2002 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 7 Dec (TANJUG)—Muslim Radio Sarajevo reported this evening that Croatian artillery lobbed 150 destructive shells on the town center of Gornji Vakuf.

The radio's correspondent from Gornji Vakuf claims that this was just an introduction to an all-out Croatian offensive on the town because "truckloads of Croatian soldiers are arriving in the neighboring town of Prozor every day."

Serbs Block Aid Convoys; British Fire on Croats

AU0712150093 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Dec 7 (AFP)—Serbs blocked six humanitarian convoys Tuesday [7 December], a United Nations spokesman said, calling the move "clearly against the spirit of the Geneva agreement." U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Bill Aikman said the six convoys were blocked at the northeastern Bosnian city of Zvornik by Bosnian Serbs. Under the agreement signed in Geneva last month, the Bosnians, the Serbs and the Croats pledged to allow humanitarian convoys to pass unimpeded and also to let the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who brokered the agreement, to determine what constituted humanitarian aid. Aikman said the Serbs had presented UNPROFOR with a long list of demands that they said must be met before they will let the convoys through. The demands are to be examined at a meeting scheduled for Friday.

In Sarajevo, tension remained high following Monday's shelling of the city center, which left six persons dead and 29 injured. In the past few weeks, the shelling had mostly taken place around, not in, the city, on the front lines.

Aikman said heavy fighting was underway around the Bosnian-held towns of Sapna and Olovo. British forces came under fire four times and returned the fire three times towards positions believed to be held by Croats, Aikman said. There were no casualties on the British side and it was not known if the Croats suffered any.

Aikman said the Bosnian Army had managed to stop an offensive by separatists loyal to Moslem leader Fikret Abdic in the northwestern Bosnian enclave of Bihac. The mainly Moslem Army's 5th Corps "reacted strongly" to the weekend offensive launched by Abdic's men and "has stopped them," he added. Abdic, a wealthy businessman, declared Bihac autonomous on September 27 sparking inter-Moslem fighting.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR announced the evacuation from Sarajevo of 29 people to Ancona, Italy. From there, eight (three patients and five relatives) will be taken to the Netherlands and 21 (nine patients and 12 relatives) to Saudi Arabia.

In Bonn, the government announced Tuesday it had approved a 10-million-mark (6.25 million dollar) special aid package for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

UNHCR Accuses Serbs of Blocking Gorazde Aid

LD0712181393 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 1700 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says ethnic Serbian forces are preventing the United Nations delivering supplies and reconstruction materials to the besieged Muslim town of Gorazde. A UNHCR spokesman in Geneva said that Serbian militiamen have prevented a team of Swedish engineers from entering the Bosnian town to repair buildings for the winter. He said 60 percent of the buildings in Gorazde had been badly damaged in the fighting. The spokesman said the Serbian militia at Gorazde appears to be acting on its own and another group at Sebrenica (?had now driven) engineers into the town to carry out repairs.

Serbian Pilots Reportedly Bomb Zvornik

AU0712200093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Report by Salih Brkic from Zvornik area]

[Excerpt] Warnings that have been issued to chetnik warlords mean nothing. They are continuing sending their (?soldiers) to a certain death by pushing them into new, fierce attacks on heroic Teocak and the free territory of Zvornik. Tanks and howitzers pounded Teocak-Zvornik area all day today, from (?Laze) to Obrsin and Skakavica. In addition, killer-pilots fired 104 Maljutka

guided missiles from helicopters on Skakavica and Obrsin from the direction of (?Savici).

Six Maljutkas were fired yesterday, (?another) eight today, chetnik helicopters are flying. So are the UN planes, but they are not stopping the criminals yet. The aggressor is still regarding the ban on flights as a dead letter on paper. [passage omitted]

Gen Delic Meets U.S. Ambassador Jackovich

AU0712162293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Army General Rasim Delic, commander of the General Staff of the Supreme Command of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, received Victor Jackovich, U.S. ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Sarajevo today. During the meeting, Gen. Delic informed Ambassador Jackovich about the situation on the Bosnia-Herzegovina battlefield, particularly in the regions of Teocak and Olovo where, despite the offensive by Serbian aggressor and the use of the air forces of the so-called Yugoslavia, fighters of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina are achieving extraordinary results.

Among other things, Ambassador Jackovich expressed interest in the results of the last Geneva talks, in the views of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina on solving the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as in the circumstances that led to the marked successes of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina during the past few months.

Mr. Jackovich presented the latest stands of the U.S. Administration regarding the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where special stress was laid on increasing humanitarian aid in the coming winter months, as well as the disposition of the U.S. public toward U.S. participation in the implementation of the possible peace agreement on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

General Delic presented the known stands of the Supreme Command Staff on solving the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, just as it has been doing so far, will completely implement the will of the people and the stands of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Press Center of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina announces.

Pejanovic Meets Jackovich

AU0712200293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Mirko Pejanovic, member of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, today held talks with the U.S. ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Ambassador Jackovich briefed Pejanovic on the decision of the U.S. Government to double humanitarian aid for Bosnia-Herzegovina in view of the winter and greater needs of the population.

Zenica Official Receives Jackovich

AU0712162493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 7 Dec

[Text] Fuad Dzidic, minister in the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina and coordinator for the Zenica-Doboj region, today held talks with Victor Jakovich, U.S. ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina, on the ways to preserve the multiethnic character of that part of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the strengthening of civilian authorities in the region, and the role of the minister coordinator in that field.

Jakovich and Dzidic also talked about the involvement of the United States in providing humanitarian aid to the endangered people in the besieged areas, particularly Maglaj and Tesanj. Dzidic briefed Jakovich on the initiatives concerning the education of students at U.S. universities and the employment of U.S. doctors specialists in the Zenica hospital.

Court Declares Krajina Elections 'Illegal'

LD0712154793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Excerpts] The Croatian constitutional court today adopted a stance in response to the announcement of the so-called presidential and parliamentary elections in the areas of Croatia under the protection of the UN and in the so-called pink zones. [passage omitted]

All those who are preparing and holding the announced so-called elections in the mentioned areas on 12 and 19 December are not constitutionally and legally authorized to call and hold valid elections at any level. Their acts are therefore illegitimate and illegal, because they are directed at overthrowing the state authorities and destroying the territorial integrity of Croatia as specified in its constitution.

Consequently, all actions taken to call and hold these so-called elections are in contravention of the provisions of the Croatian constitution and the above mentioned constitutional laws, and as such, null and void without any legal impact.

UN Urged To Prevent Serb Krajina Elections

LD0812150293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1419 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Zagreb, 8 Dec (TANJUG)—Croatia has demanded of the UN Security Council "to take adequate measures in response to the local Serbs' plans to hold elections on 12 December," it was announced in Zagreb today.

A note sent with the demand, conveyed to the Security Council by Croatian ambassador to the UN Mario Nobilo, says that UN resolutions define the UN protected areas as "integral parts of Croatia." Nobilo also informed the United Nations that the Croatian Government considers the announced elections in those areas "illegitimate" and "null and void."

Serbian 'Terrorists' Shell Biograd, One Killed

LD0712205293 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Excerpt] At about 1900 hours, Serbian terrorists shelled Biograd and Pakostane [western Croatia], firing many destructive shells at them. One civilian was killed and great material damage was caused in these attacks. [passage omitted]

Army Wipes Out Serb 'Sabotage Group' in Zadar

LD0712190593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] On 6 December, Serb terrorists infiltrated a three-member sabotage group in the Croatian Army-controlled Kasic area in the Zadar hinterland.

The group was detected at around 1730 hours and, having refused to surrender, was eliminated in close-range combat, Captain Ivan Zelic, deputy commander of the political affairs department of the Croatian Army's Split operational zone, told reporters today.

Jansa 'Surprised' by Kucan's Defense Demands

AU0712194693 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 2100 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Defense Minister Janez Jansa in an interview for the STA news agency said that the opinion of President Kucan concerning the defense law has surprised him very much. He said that prior to putting this law before parliament, the government had been directly coordinating with the president of the republic and his office on the legal document. The legislature had acknowledged most of the objections, Minister Jansa emphasized, although there were at least two-thirds fewer of these than are contained in today's statement of the president's opinion.

Janez Jansa believes that Milan Kucan has proposed the same powers over the command of the army as the SFRY Presidency used to have.

Drnovsek Sums Up Year of Coalition Existence

AU0712101393 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1430 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] A year after the parliamentary elections, the political situation in the country is stable and Slovenia has all the possibilities for [word indistinct] recovery of the economy. This is what Janez Drnovsek, Slovene prime minister and president of the Liberal Democratic Party, stressed at today's regular news conference of this party. Sandi Frelih reports:

[Frelih] Janez Drnovsek, in the introduction, reminded us that at the last elections the Liberal Democrats won a relative majority and that it was difficult to form a stable coalition government in the political situation of that time. However, over the year, the government has nevertheless proven that it can function despite problems. They are resolving occasional problems and tensions as they go. Their greatest achievement is the secured political stability that the country needs for economic [word indistinct].

Drnovsek reminded us of party's electoral slogan: Neither to the Left, nor to the Right. He said that the party is asserting itself as a party of the political center and maintains balance in the coalition. The story of success is more difficult to realize, especially because they have to resolve problems from the past. However, for the first time in five years, Slovenia has halted the decline of economic growth. Positive trends in production show that the gross national product will be at last year's level. The success is also reflected in the curbing of inflation. At the end of 1993, the inflation will be three quarters lower than last year, that is, approximately 22 percent.

The president of the Liberal Democrats also reminded of the successes in strengthening the international position of our country and said that, during tomorrow's visit by the West European Union mission, further talks about Slovenia's integration into this organization will take place.

Answering journalists' questions, Janez Drnovsek said that Slovenia is tackling unemployment in a similar fashion to other European countries. We are encouraged by the fact that the number of new work places is growing. In Drnovsek's opinion, salaries pose the greatest problem. This year the salaries [words indistinct] growth of the domestic product increased by 10 percent. He also ascribes great value to the negotiations on social stability.

Drnovsek also expects that the government will achieve economically tolerable results with present and planned measures aimed at reducing spending, especially of the non-budget users.

Regarding political affiliations, Drnovsek says that the Liberal Democrats count on the wider Slovene territory. The coalition functions in the contextual sense of the word. The annex to the coalition agreement is, therefore, not aimed at homogenizing its functioning.

Regarding relations with Croatia, Janez Drnovsek expects greater moves in the coming year, because, as he says, interstate talks about open issues are currently taking place at an expert level.

Federal

Panic's 4 Dec Meeting With Clinton Reported

AU0812113393 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 7 Dec 93 p 4

[Report by B.: "A New Panic-Clinton Meeting"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton met the former Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic in Los Angeles last Saturday [4 December].

This was the second meeting between Clinton and Panic in the last two weeks. The first time they had talks was in San Francisco on 20 November when the U.S. President expressed gratitude to Panic for the efforts he exerted toward finding a peaceful solution in the former Yugoslavia.

According to the announcement by Milan Panic's Belgrade cabinet, during the second meeting with the U.S. President several Yugoslav topics were touched upon: the sanctions that the international community imposed against Yugoslavia, the current economic and political situation in the country, as well as the forthcoming elections in Serbia.

No details about these talks have been disclosed, but it has been learned that the U.S. President favorably spoke about Milan Panic's efforts to help peace be established on the territories of the former Yugoslavia. These meetings are a part of the intensive activity of the former Yugoslav prime minister in acquiring international support for the sanctions to be lifted, as well as for peace to be established.

Panic is also in contact through letters with leaders of many countries, to whom he appeals that humanitarian aid should be sent to Yugoslavia and that the sanctions should start being alleviated and lifted.

Serbia

Five Parties Field Candidates in All Districts

LD0712214693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2043 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, December 7 (TANJUG)—Only five parties and two party coalitions have deputy candidates in all nine election districts at the early elections for the parliament of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia which will be held on December 19, Serbia's Statistics Bureau said on Tuesday [7 December].

The parties are: the Ruling Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), the Democratic Party (DS), the Serbian Radical Party (SRS), the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS), and the Party of Serb Unity (SSJ). Only Depos [Serbian Democratic Alliance] and the United Left of the six party coalitions will take part in the election race in all nine election districts. It is estimated that these five parties and two coalitions stand the best chances of winning the majority of the 250 seats in parliament. Groups of citizens have a prominent role in this year's election race—as many as 27 such groups have named independent candidates.

The supervising committee for control of the regularity of the election campaign in Serbia said on Tuesday that the most frequent violations of the rules on activities by public media are those pertaining to the dignity of personal integrity. Not only public media, but even certain prominent party leaders and officials are guilty of such violations, the committee assessed in its statement. Depos leader Vuk Draskovic, for instance, insults rival candidates at the election rallies of his party, said the committee statement. SRS leader Vojislav Seselj and SPS official Zoran Arandjelovic are also guilty of similar violations.

Ex-Army Officers Accused in Arms Sales

AU0812113893 Belgrade VECERNJE NOVOSTI in Serbo-Croatian 7 Dec 93 p 6

[Report by M. Niciforovic: "They Are Returning Arms of Their Own Free Will"]

[Text] Thanks to the alertness and the good organization of the security services, particularly the department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Novi Pazar, the extremists of the Party of Democratic Action [SDA]—who were planning to instigate bloodshed in Sandzak and create a Muslim state on the territory of Serbia and Montenegro—have been immobilized.

Even though, according to the information of the Yugoslav Army, there are over 10,000 of [Sulejman] Ugljanin's armed supporters in Sandzak (some have been sent for special training to Turkey, and some for "practice" to Bosnia), it is almost certain that there will be no war on this territory, which has always been Serbian.

The police force has so far confiscated some 1,000 long barrels, a large number of hand grenades, tonnes of ammunition, a considerable amount of medicine, and other war material from the SDA fighters. Apart from the arsenal of lethal weapons, they have also been caught in possession of plans for the assassination of more prominent Serbs and for the destruction of important facilities and roads in the Raska region [Sandzak]. Hardly a day goes by without the police discovering—through house searches and in other ways—and confiscating newer and larger amounts of weapons. Aware of the collapse of Ugljanin's policy, and in an attempt to avoid arrest, many of Ugljanin's "commanders" are now bringing in weapons of their own free will and handing them over to the police, claiming that they have been tricked by Ugljanin.

At the same time, new channels for delivering arms to Sandzak are constantly being discovered. Apart from Turkey, Germany, Albania, and Croatia, large quantities of arms and ammunition have been arriving to the Muslims from Serbia, too. They are being sold to the

Muslims for large amounts of money by Serbs. A large group of active and reserve officers from the former Yugoslav People's Army has recently been intercepted. With the help of some civilians, this group had been stealing arms from the Territorial Defense warehouses in several Serbian towns, and selling them to Ugljanin's supporters. Their identities will be revealed once the investigation has been completed.

There is great interest in Novi Pazar in the trial of the closest Ugljanin's assistants, who were in charge of forming a Muslim paramilitary and instigating bloodshed, as it is thought that the trial will reveal many details concerning the failed attack on Serbia and everything Serbian in the Raska region.

Macedonia

Cetin, Crvenkovski Hold Joint News Conference

TA0812110493 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2100 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Report by Yavuz Yorulmaz in Skopje]

[Text] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin who ended his contacts in Macedonia held a joint news conference with Macedonian Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski. Cetin said that Turkey wants to see peace established in the Balkans. He pointed out that Macedonia is also on the side of peace. However, he added, all the countries in the region must make efforts for peace and stability.

Asked to comment on the problems of the Turks living in Macedonia, Cetin stressed that the Turks in that country constitute a bridge of friendship between the two countries. He pointed out that the Turks living in Macedonia enjoy more rights than the Turks living in other parts of the Balkans. He said: The Turks here are of Turkish origin. However, they are Macedonian citizens. I am convinced that Macedonia will recognize their democratic rights.

Cetin explained that NATO which is playing a role in the reshaping of Europe will expand soon. Turkey believes, he said, that NATO should assume roles outside its region as well. Cetin will go to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria and the last leg of his tour, tomorrow morning.

Cetin: Macedonia Entitled To Name

TA0812114593 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0915 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Skopje, Dec.8 (AA)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said Tuesday [7 December] that Turkey was determined to further relations with Macedonia. Speaking at a dinner hosted to his honor by his Bulgarian counterpart Stevo Crvenkovski, Cetin, on a Balkan tour at present, said that the Turkish Government attached great importance on the independence, territorial integrity and the border unity of Macedonia. He said that it was out of the question to impose another name for the Macedonian State on its people against their preference. "The names of states, just as persons, cannot be changed just because others want so," he said.

He added that Turkey deemed it very useful to establish cooperation among the Balkan states. On his part, Crvenkovski said that his country was determined to cooperate with the other countries of the region, within the principle of mutual respect. He added that the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the grievances of innocent civilians in the region were concerning his people.

"It is very concerning that despite the efforts of the international community, peace seems to be far away. Besides, the war poses the threat to expand to other Balkan countries," he said. "Macedonia is for the resolving of problems through peaceful methods and negotiations. It strongly condemns the policy of changing borders by force and ethnic cleansing methods," he said.

Ministry Protests Greek Airspace Violation

LD0712172493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1632 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] Skopje, 7 Dec (TANJUG)—The Foreign Ministry of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia sent a note today to the consulate general of the Greek Republic in Skopje because Greek planes entered Macedonian airspace at around 1200 hours yesterday.

Such events do not contribute toward the strengthening of confidence between the two neighboring states, the Macedonian ministry of Foreign Affairs said among other things in its statement issued today.